Washington says sorry, China claims victory

STORY ON PAGE A7

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Income tax filing deadline extended

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the Bureau of Internal Revenue to extend the deadline for the filing of income tax returns from April 16 to April 18.

This will give taxpayers more time to file their income tax returns, the President said in a statement.

The BIR earlier moved the deadline for the

INCOME/ A10

Jinggoy lying, says NHA chief

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA
AND AGNES E. DONATO

CONTRARY to the claims of San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, the P100-million check earmarked for the San Juan resettlement project in Rizal was encashed by the San Juan local government.

JINGGOY/ A10

DACER DEAD

Confirmation comes from experts hired by family

REQUIEM. It would have been Dacer's 67th birthday today had he not met his dark end by a desolate creek in Indang, Cavite, on Nov. 24. Only a handful of bones remain of the powerful PR practitioner.

To celebrate his life, his four daughters, though in sorrow, will share a meal of "lugaw," the traditional birthday fare favored by their dad as he always wanted to be reminded of his humble beginnings.

BY ALCUIN PAPA
AND VOLT CONTRERAS

ON THE EVE of Salvador "Bubby" Dacer's 67th birthday, his children finally accepted his death, after an independent team of forensic experts hired by the family confirmed that remains recovered from a creek bed in Cavite belonged to the controversial publicist and his driver, Manuel Corbito.

"This is a very sad day for the families of Bubby Dacer and Manuel Corbito. The families are inconsolable and in a state of profound grief," Chelen Reyes, husband of Dacer's daughter Sabina, said in an emotional speech yesterday.

The family, Reyes revealed, had hired a team of forensic pathologists from the University of the Philippines, led by Dr. Raquel del Rosario-Fortun, who "confirmed that they found the remains . . . belonged to our father and family driver."

The team based its results on "dental records" and "personal things" recovered from the site in Indang, Cavite, where two suspect-witnesses had said the bodies of Dacer and Corbito were burned.

The National Bureau of Investigation, which is conducting its own forensic investigation, told the INQUIRER that the UP team had examined a different set of bones taken directly from the site, and not the charred remains recovered by the bureau.

But the family, which has repeatedly expressed frustration over the slow pace of the NBI's probe into Dacer's disappearance, accepted the findings of the independent team, even though the bureau has yet to release the findings of its own forensic experts.

"The family is convinced at this point, based on the findings. This is a breakthrough but it is just the beginning of our search for truth and justice for our father. We expect the investigation will move faster and the perpetrators will be identified," Reyes said.

"Since they were reported missing on Nov. 24 last year, we persisted in hoping against hope that they were alive and were merely being temporarily held against their will by ruthless, wicked people. Today's findings confirmed our worst fears," Reyes told reporters at the family home

DACER/ A3

4 cops confess: They told us to kill them both

BY DAVE VERIDIANO

"THEY told us to kill them both . . . We learned that it was Dacer only the next day from news reports."

In a stunning development in the murder case of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, four policemen, who are on a long "wanted list" of agents from the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, have surrendered to Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza, the INQUIRER learned last night.

The four claimed that other agents, accompanied by a PAOCTF officer, turned over Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito, to them last Nov. 24 with the instruction "to waste" the two, whom they were made to believe were notorious criminals.

4 COPS/ A3

No Good Friday arrest for Estrada, says Sandiganbayan

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

SANDIGANBAYAN Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena yesterday ruled out the possibility that Joseph Estrada would be ordered arrested this Holy Week on any of the eight criminal charges filed against him, including the non-bailable offense of plunder.

And it seems that no arrest warrant will be issued shortly by the anti-graft court on Estrada and his co-accused, with Garchitorena and another justice citing the Ombudsman's failure to submit all the documents necessary for the start of deliberations on the existence of probable cause.

Earlier in the day, Estrada lawyer Raymund Fortun quoted "intelligence reports" reaching his client that an arrest order was expected to be issued yesterday and carried out on Good Friday, April 13.

NO/ A10

Pope tells priests: Confess more

BY FR. ROY CIMAGALA
AND NORMAN BORDADORA

WHAT took place on the first Holy Thursday anticipated what was to take place on Good Friday up to Easter Sunday. The events of Holy Thursday sacramentalize the events of Good Friday to Easter Sunday, and will perpetuate them up to the end of time.

Holy Thursday focuses on the Last Supper when Jesus Christ instituted two sacraments—the Holy Eucharist, and to perpetuate it, the Holy Orders or the priesthood.

The Pope issues an annual letter to the entire priesthood every Maundy Thursday. This year, Pope John Paul II urged the priests all over the world to go to confession more often and experience penance more frequently in their lives.

The Pope's message may be better appreciated in the light of the Vatican's acknowledgement of a study reported in the world media that found priests raped and caused the deaths of countless nuns and female church workers in at least 26 countries, including the Philippines.

In its apology, the Vatican was joined by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

The Pope said there has been a considerable decline in confessions over the

POPE/ A3

CROWNING GLORIA

JOAN BONDOC

The reigning Miss America, Angela Perez Barraquio, the first one of Filipino descent calls on President Macapagal at the Palace on Wednesday bearing her titleholder's crown.

Tired priests turn to blind man for massage

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

EVEN they who walk with Christ need to literally rest their feet.

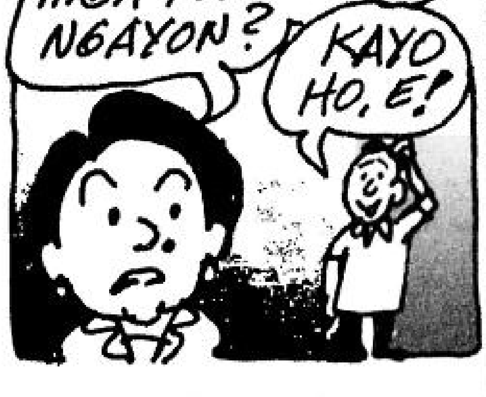
And when parish priests of Metro Manila take time out before the rigors of the Holy Week services, they go to a blind man who, like themselves, is kept busy during this Lenten season—but for an entirely different reason.

Rod Eje, blind for the past 14 years, allows tired servants of God to be served, if only to prepare them for the Catholic rituals.

Eje is the unofficial masseur of the clergy, including Bishop Ted Bacani and "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes. He is also often called to the Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong City, home of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, whose religious staff requires a regular massage.

Occasionally he goes to the office of the Catholic Bishops Con-

TIRED/ A10


ANO BANG PROBLEMA NG MGA PASAHERO NGAYON?
KAYO HO, E!

'Oks' for Gloria, calvary for others

BY DONNA S. CUETO
AND TJ BURGONIO

HER intentions were good: to check on the conditions of passengers on their way to the provinces for the Holy Week.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo's

OKS/ A3

Gloria hit for 'glorifying' Favali killer

BY JEROME ANING,
JOWEL F. CANUDAY AND
CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS

ON the 16th anniversary of Italian priest Tullio Favali's brutal murder, a brief meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and the priest's killer, Norberto Manero Jr., drew flak from an anti-crime group which called it "highly risky and distasteful."

Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption yesterday said the "presentation" of Manero to the President on Tuesday was "a glaring breach of security and protocol."

"A President openly shaking hands with a dangerous convict may send the wrong signal—that she is glorifying criminals like Manero," VACC chair Dante Jimenez said.

In Davao, Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for Mindanao, said the government is preparing to

GLORIA/ A10

Second FRONT PAGE

GRABE KASI ANG NAMANANG PROBLEMA, EH!

Gloria faces uphill fight on economy

NEARLY three months after assuming power with a promise to revive a battered economy, President Macapagal-Arroyo is grappling with sagging business confidence amid an export and investment downturn that threatens to dampen growth.

Although many of the problems facing the economy were inherited from her scandal-tainted predecessor Joseph Estrada, Ms Macapagal faced an uphill task trying to unravel a web of corruption in the bureaucracy, said Gonzalo Bongolan, research head with PCCI Securities Brokers Corp.

"While the business community is giving the new President the benefit of the doubt, there is fear that it might be politics as usual once again—this time only with a new set of politicians to deal with," he said.

Bongolan said the new government had to confront urgent "infrastructural inadequacies and structural problems," citing power outages, traffic congestion and poor garbage collection in Manila among the woes.

Bongolan said waning local business confidence coupled with the US-led global slowdown was taking a toll on investments, which together with exports make up the twin pillars of economic growth.

Electronics-led exports, which rose just above 1 percent in January-February compared to a nearly 10-percent jump during the same period last year, are projected to slump to their lowest levels in a decade in 2001 due to the US-led slowdown.

The dim export scenario has forced the government to shave its economic growth forecast this year to 3.8 percent from an earlier 4.3 percent.

Foreign investment houses are more bearish, with Britain's HSBC bank projecting 2-percent gross domestic product growth and US-based investment house Goldman Sachs forecasting a mere 1.7-percent growth.

Last year, the Philippine economy grew 3.9 percent.

Aside from exports, foreign direct investments have also fallen—by a hefty 75.6 percent to P906.9 million in the first quarter of 2001 from a year earlier, reports say.

Portfolio investments have shrunk as well, with daily turnover at the Philippine stock exchange down to about P200 million.

A poll among executives from the top 700 corporations in the country released this week showed business confidence down in March—the first time since Ms Macapagal took over from Estrada in a military-led popular uprising on Jan. 20.

According to the poll, the respondents in particular expressed less confidence in the new administration.

Consumer confidence in the country of 76 million people was also beginning to taper off from its highest level in January, the survey showed.

"The short cut interpretation to all this is that the euphoria is over but we need to put this in perspective because Filipino expectations have mostly been very short term in nature," said Johnny Ravalo, chief economist of the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

The people had expected the new administration to achieve much within a short period but the reality was that the "Arroyo effect" would be felt only after the general elections in May, he said.

"We had a revolution in January, there will be congressional elections in May, the Congress will reconvene only in July or August. This already takes away three quarters of the year," Ravalo said.

He felt that the government should respond to the people's high expectations by producing a list of short-term "doable" goals.

"In the May elections, the government has to put its neck on the chopping block and say what it can achieve within a year and get the nation to work toward meeting the goals," he said.

Alex Magno, a political analyst, said "the most urgent concern" of investors in the immediate term was the outcome of the triennial May polls, including for 13 seats in the 24-member Senate and all 250 seats in the House of Representatives.

"Although no one doubts that the Macapagal administration will dominate the outcome of this exercise, investors nevertheless prefer to await the results . . . to get an accurate gauge of the balance of political forces in Philippine society," he said. *AFP*

SURPRISE WELL-WISHER ROGER MARGALLO

President Macapagal-Arroyo greets passengers at the Manila domestic airport during her round of airports, piers and bus terminals in yesterday's Lenten exodus of city residents to the provinces. The tour, which was part of the government's program to ease domestic travel, instead caused traffic jams in her wake. *(Story on Page 1)*

Comelec forms body to probe ballot theft

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

THE COMMISSION on Elections has formed a three-person committee to investigate the alleged pilferage and selling of ballots being printed at the National Printing Office, which was exposed by the Lakas-NUCD recently.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said the fact-finding committee would be headed by Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. and has been given 10 days to come up with findings and recommendations.

Tuason was recently designated as Benipayo's "representative" in the Comelec printing committee chaired by Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco.

Benipayo said the Tuason investigation was separate from an ongoing National Bureau of Investigation probe into the alleged pilferage and selling of ballots by a "casual" employee at the Comelec.

A Lakas-NUCD watcher assigned at the NPO, Alexis Francis Reyes, claimed that the employee, Antonio Galang, gave him three ballots in mid-March as "samples" of the ballots that he was offering to sell at P25 apiece.

The Lakas-NUCD said chemical tests on one of the ballots showed it was made of the same paper used by the Comelec for official ballots.

Two of the ballots were intended for Santa Rita, Samar, and bore serial numbers on the upper and lower portions that did not match. One ballot had the serial numbers 0013989 and 0001986 on its face, while the other bore the numbers 0099991 and 0099996.

Benipayo did not confirm or deny if the ballots from Galang were genuine, but said they could have been spoiled ballots as they bore mismatched serial numbers.

The Lakas-NUCD has called for the resignation of Tancangco over the alleged ballot pilferage at the NPO.

In another incident at about the same time, another casual employee at the NPO, Zobair Amerol, was found to have filched four ballots from a pile set to be shipped to Lanao del Sur.

Tancangco has branded reports linking her to Galang and Amerol and to the ballot pilferage as malicious and politically motivated.

She claimed that Reyes had come to see her the day before Lakas-NUCD came out with its expose on April 6, asking her to approve his accreditation as Lakas-NUCD watcher at the NPO. But authorization letter carried by Reyes, signed by Lakas executive director Joey Rufino, was under the name of a Francisco J.C. Reyes and not Alexis Reyes, she said.

Party-list ban on parties sought

A PARTY-LIST organization has asked the Supreme Court to disqualify mainstream political parties from participating in the party-list elections so as not to make a mockery out of the country's party-list system.

The Philippine Association of Retired Persons Inc. (Parp) said allowing political parties to run in the party-list elections would "defeat the very purpose for which the party-list system was instituted."

Parp is an association of retired and retirable government and private employees who are members of the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

It was duly accredited by the Commission on Elections as party-list candidate in the May 14, 2001 party-list elections.

In an urgent motion on Tuesday, Parp lawyer Jose Apolo urged the Supreme Court to immediately order Comelec to revoke the accreditation of political parties and likewise desist from issuing accreditations to similar political groups.

Miss America meets Gloria

BY DONNA S. CUETO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday met with the first Filipino American to hold the Miss America title, Angela Perez Baraquio.

"I'm so very happy that the most beautiful woman in the United States is a Filipina," the President told Baraquio, a 24-year-old Hawaii elementary schoolteacher.

The statuesque Miss America 2001, who stands 5'8" tall, towered over the 4'11" Ms Macapagal and had to bend low to kiss her.

The President told Baraquio that Filipinos were closely following the Miss America pageant this year because of her.

Baraquio, who was born and raised in Hawaii, said she felt honored and thanked the President for giving her the opportunity to meet her.

"I wouldn't miss this for the world," Ms Macapagal said.

Miss America usually is restricted these days to travel in the United States during her one-year reign. But as the first woman of Asian extraction to hold the title, Baraquio managed to squeeze in a packed two-day, first-time visit to her parents' homeland, which welcomed her with open arms.

"The people have been so friendly," Baraquio, chosen at the annual pageant last October, gushed at a news conference. "Where I come from, people are color-blind. (But) this is the first time that I'm not a minority," said Baraquio who arrived last Wednesday and leaves on Friday.

Accompanied by her parents, who moved to Honolulu in the 1970s, Baraquio said she hoped to see her father's relatives for the first time, including her only surviving grandparent.

4 die in Bicol bus accident

NAGA CITY—Four people were killed and 15 were injured when a bus crashed into a parked 10-wheeler truck at 2:30 a.m. yesterday at the Quirino Highway in Lupi, Camarines Sur.

Dead on the spot were the bus driver, Rafael Teria, and three still unidentified women.

Police said the truck, which was loaded with steel and iron bars, was parked at a curve in the highway when the Amtrans bus from Manila rammed into it. Another bus, which was trailing the Amtrans bus also hit the truck.

Gov't proposes early ceasefire with Reds

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday said it would ask communist guerrillas to agree to a nationwide ceasefire ahead of peace talks on April 27.

The decision came after a meeting of Cabinet Cluster E, composed of the President's top national security and military advisers, Silvestre Bello III, chair of the government negotiating panel, said.

It was also agreed that the talks would be held in the Norwegian capital of Oslo, Bello said in a phone interview.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., who is also the foreign secretary, yesterday formally asked the Norwegian Embassy in Manila to request Oslo to host the talks, a diplomatic source said.

"We have sent a *note verbale* today on the possibility of Oslo being the venue of the talks with the National Democratic Front," the source said.

The NDF is the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines whose New People's Army guerrillas have been waging a 32-year rebellion.

NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni, who returned from exile in the Netherlands last week, said he would have to confer with other communist leaders before approving any ceasefire.

"We're happy to have that confirmation (on Oslo as the venue)," Jalandoni said in a phone interview.

The diplomatic source said Philippine officials would meet with Norwegian Embassy officials next week to discuss the details of the peace talks.

Norway reportedly "wants a substantive role" in the negotiation, the source said, without elaborating.

The two government and rebel panels agreed over breakfast on Tuesday on the choice of Oslo as the venue, the agenda of the talks and the security arrangements for the NDF negotiators.

Jalandoni earlier said the NDF was in favor of limited ceasefires for specific purposes—like the one implemented for the release by the NPA captive Army Maj. Noel Buan this week—rather than a nationwide cessation of hostilities.

Guingona presided over the Cluster E meeting which was held at the foreign affairs department. Those who attended were Bello, Presidential Peace Adviser Eduardo Ermita, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. *Carlito Pablo and AFP*

Campaign takes a break

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

AT LENT, all thoughts turn to the spiritual.

With this in mind, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa coalition announced yesterday it was taking a three-day break to pray for peaceful and honest elections, and the "dawning of the age of genuine and lasting peace in the nation."

At the same time, the opposition group challenged its rival, the People Power Coalition, to follow suit, adding the administration party should junk its "hate campaign" and focus on election issues instead.

"LDP-Puwersa has been a responsible issue-oriented party with real goals and a viable agenda for national development," LDP secretary general Agapito "Butz" Aquino said in a statement.

The invitation to pray for honest elections and do away with the "hate campaign" came one day after the Supreme Court dismissed a second motion for reconsideration filed by deposed President Joseph Estrada, the coalition's de facto leader.

Estrada was contesting the SC decision, which stripped him of the presidency and its attendant immunity from suit.

Estrada is facing charges of plunder and other criminal acts allegedly committed during his aborted presidency. He is joined in some cases by his wife, former first lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, who is running for senator under the Puwersa banner.

Regardless of the Puwersa challenge to the PPC, the Commission on Elections reiterated yesterday that campaigning is not allowed on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in observance of Holy Week.

Comelec commissioner Rex Borra said campaigning on these two days would constitute a violation of Resolution No. 3258, which set the calendar of activities and prohibited acts for the May 14 elections.

Borra reminded candidates the resolution, which was passed on Sept. 28, 2000, also prohibits them from giving their constituents gifts in cash or in kind from Feb. 28 to May 14, or during the entire campaign period until Election Day.

On Election Day, it is illegal to sell and drink liquor; and provide or accept free transportation, food, drinks and "things of value" from candidates, Borra said.

Also prohibited are the holding of fairs, cockfights, boxing matches, horse races and similar sports, and the operation of stalls selling merchandise or refreshments within 30 meters of polling precincts.

Other acts prohibited until the election period ends on June 13, 2001 are the carrying of firearms; the transfer of civil service employees to other jobs; maintaining private strike forces; use of private security personnel; and the suspension from their posts of elective local officials. *With Gerald G. Lacuarta*

Baguio showdown fizzles out

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

BAGUIO CITY—The expected clash between the rival senatorial tickets of the administration and the opposition did not happen even though both slates campaigned in this city at the same time yesterday.

The closest the two groups came to facing off occurred early in the afternoon just outside Baguio where the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa coalition was wrapping up its press conference at the Hotel Supreme in La Trinidad, Benguet.

The People Power Coalition motorcade passed by when some Puwersa supporters jeered them and turned their thumbs down.

The PPC supporters, however, just grinned and flashed the thumbs-up sign of the People Power II revolt that ousted Puwersa leader, former President Joseph Estrada.

The PPC candidates themselves were not in the motorcade, however. Candidate Manny Villar said the PPC bets had sent their personal representatives to the motorcade though.

The only "clash" occurred at the Baguio public market where Puwersa bet Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile ran into Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Perez, according to Enrile, was alone and was obviously not in campaign mode. "We exchanged pleasantries," was all Enrile would say of his chance encounter with one of the administration officials who is actively pursuing the cases against Estrada.

Enrile said he was surprised to find Perez in Baguio City.

As of press time yesterday, aside from Villar, only PPC bet Sen. Juan Flavier was reported to be campaigning in La Trinidad.

Villar said he skipped the motorcade to campaign in Baguio City. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan was seen on Session Road shaking hands with the people.

Villar said he expects fellow bet Ramon Magsaysay Jr. to come to Benguet.

The two major forces contesting 13 Senate seats in the May 14 elections went to Baguio apparently to take advantage of the large number of people who flock to the summer capital during Holy Week.

Puwersa candidates who came to the city were former first lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, former presidential adviser Jamby Madrigal and Dr. Ombra Tamano.

Like Enrile, they went around the Baguio market to campaign, but they did not run into any rival candidates. Apart from the market tour and the motorcade, both tickets did not hold any other activity in the city.

The LDP-Puwersa candidates instead held a rally in La Trinidad early last night. Ex-President Estrada flew in early in the afternoon to attend the rally.

During their market tour, the former first lady was accompanied by her son Jude, while Santiago was with one of her two sons. *With Christine Avendaño*

PPC asks Erap bets to quit race

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

BAGUIO CITY—Calling them a "disgraced slate," the administration People Power Coalition's spokesman has urged candidates of the rival Puwersa ng Masa to withdraw from the Senate race now that their "captain ball" is about to face trial.

However, the call made by PPC spokesman Conrado "Dodie" Limcaoco was not echoed by the coalition's bets who would rather let all the candidates fight it out for the electorate's votes.

Limcaoco noted that Puwersa's "captain ball," deposed President Joseph Estrada, could soon find himself in jail after the Supreme Court recently junked for the second time his petition claiming he was still president and therefore immune from prosecution.

Estrada is facing numerous counts of plunder and other charges stemming from illegal acts allegedly committed while he was president.

Dacer dead, say experts

(From page A1)

in Parañaque.

He said the family tapped Fortun of UP's College of Medicine to conduct the independent investigation a few days after March 28, when the suspects were arrested and admitted to being accessories in Dacer's abduction and alleged murder.

More questions

Fortun had been recommended to the family by friends as an expert in the field of forensic pathology, Reyes said.

Reyes said Fortun's investigation was conducted with the "help of the NBI," and that the pathologist was ready yesterday to deliver her team's findings to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

However, as of yesterday afternoon, Fortun was still trying to get in touch with Wycoco as well as NBI National Capital Region chief Samuel Ong, Reyes said.

Dacer's son-in-law said that the findings "raised more questions than answers."

"Who killed them? Why were they killed? Who are the perpetrators of this heinous crime? The way they were killed is brutal, savage and barbaric," he said.

He also called on friends of Dacer and those who know anything about the case to come forward. "There are still a lot of things we don't know about the case. We hope you would help us solve this case."

Birthday 'lugaw'

Coming a day before Dacer's 67th birthday, which coincides this year with Maundy Thursday, the confirmation dealt an especially harsh blow to the family.

Plain *lugaw* (rice congee) will be served at the Parañaque home today in honor of the self-made, controversial "Man in White" whose dark end continues to puzzle the nation.

There will neither be a big feast nor a guest list of VIPs at the Dacer residence in Sun Valley Subdivision. Instead, bowls of *lugaw* will be shared by at least seven household members.

These will include Dacer's 88-year-old mother Emilia, who in her younger years did other people's laundry to finance her son's schooling, and Bubby's 78-year-old stepfather.

Sabina, her husband Chelen, their 2-year-old daughter (Bubby's only grandchild), and the two household helpers will also share the meal.

The family chose the frugal "celebration" not because of the circumstances of their father's disappearance but because it is a decades-long family tradition to mark the patriarch's birthday as simply and privately as possible.

Quite an irony for a publicist who used to hold office at The Manila Hotel and whose clients included some of the country's most powerful politicians and businessmen.

"It was not his style to throw a big party, and often it was his friends who would throw a surprise birthday party for him. But right here at home, we celebrate by having *lugaw*. That's something we do without fail," Sabina, Bubby's second daughter, told the INQUIRER in an interview Tuesday.

What the Dacers relish is not the dish itself, but the rich symbolism it holds for the family.

"It symbolizes where he came from," Sabina said.

Bubby Dacer's youth, according to relatives and friends, was a story of struggle against poverty.

His mother did laundry work for neighbors to finance his education in Naga City. While studying journalism at the University of Nueva Caceres in Naga in the late '50s, Dacer worked as a school janitor.

"And God knows what other menial jobs he did before that to support himself," Sabina said.

Sabina said that her sisters, Ampy, Emily and Karina, who are in Los Angeles, would "also have *lugaw* in the States." She added: "Emily (the eldest) knows how to cook."

Waiting

Sabina's husband declined to comment on whether the family would file charges against anyone now that they have confirmed the identity of the remains.

"We haven't thought about that (filing our own case). We will wait for the investigation of the NBI, and we hope this will move faster," Reyes said.

But he added that the family was consulting lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno of the Free Legal Assistance Group regarding its legal options.

"We will only feel that justice is served when the perpetrators are put away forever where they can no longer harm other people."

4 cops confess . . .

(From page A1)

One of the agents with the rank of SPO3 told his interrogators that he was instructed: "*Tumbahin na pareho 'yan. Bahala na kayo* (Kill them both. How you do it is up to you)."

The suspects said that they did not know initially that it was Dacer and his driver whom they were about to kill, since the victims were blindfolded and the rest of their faces covered with masking tape.

"*Nalaman na lamang namin na bigtime pala, si Dacer pala, kinabukasan nang ma-dyaryo na* (We learned that he was 'big-time,' that it was Dacer, only when it was reported in the newspapers the next day)," one of the PAOCTF agents told investigators.

A source privy to the interrogation said that the four decided to surrender for fear that they would be "silenced"—just like their other colleagues, who they said have been disappearing one after the other.

The four agents gave themselves up to Mendoza Tuesday and were immediately turned over to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) for interrogation.

The INQUIRER is withholding the names of the four and of their superior, whom they implicated in Dacer's abduction and killing, pending the results of the investigation being conducted by the CIDG.

Two suspect-witnesses from Indang, Cavite, Alex Diloy and Jimmy Lopez, earlier implicated five members of the PAOCTF in the case. They were identified as SPO4 Marino Soberano, SPO3 Mauro Torres, SPO2 Jose Escalante and SPO1 Crisostomo Purificacion. Former PAOCTF Visayas chief Supt. Teofilo Viña was named as the officer who allegedly gave the final order by phone to kill the victims.

Other agents are also considered suspects in the case.

'Oks' for Gloria, calvary for others

(From page A1)

visits to the North Harbor, the Manila Domestic Airport, a bus terminal in Pasay City and the North Luzon Expressway caused monstrous traffic jams, delaying thousands of commuters.

The visits, part of the transportation department's "Oks na Oks" program, which seeks to ease traffic while tens of thousands of Filipinos in Metro Manila head for the provinces, instead turned commuting into a nightmare.

The President's convoy clogged roads as police stopped traffic in some lanes just to accommodate her group.

Ms Macapagal's first stop was Pier 4 of the North Harbor. She had lunch aboard the "Our Lady of Lipa" of the WG&A shipping lines with Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Dumlao, shipping executives and some of the ship's passengers.

The ship was scheduled to sail at 2 p.m., but this had to be delayed because of the President's visit.

One passenger said, "*Hindi naman pala sasabay si Presidente sa biyahe. Kakain lang. Nadelay' pa ang biyahe namin* (The President was not going on the trip with us. She just ate but she delayed our trip)."

After 2 p.m., the President headed for the Manila Domestic Airport.

Planes, which were already receiving passengers, had to be moved to give way to the President's convoy.

"How are you?" Ms Macapagal, who wore a red vest over a blouse, asked the huge crowd of departing passengers.

At one point, she called a female passenger and asked if she paid for the use of the trolley. The President was a bit surprised when the passenger nodded.

On Tuesday, Ms Macapagal ordered airport authorities to scrap the trolley fees at the international and domestic airports.

An embarrassed Edgardo Manda, airport general manager, explained to the President that he ordered the suspension of the collection of the P20 fee by trolley operator K-Services only a couple of hours earlier.

At another point in her visit, the President had a chance to check if the newly installed automatic queuing system for waitlisted passengers was functioning.

She asked a female chance passenger to go with her to the counter of the computerized queuing system. With the passenger on her side, she asked an airport staff to find the passenger's name in the database.

To Manda's relief, the passenger's name came out after a couple of minutes. At least 100 passengers were on the waiting list.

Manda launched the queuing system last Saturday to improve services at the airport and to curb the practice of airline staff of booking a waitlisted passenger for a fee.

After her 15-minute visit, Ms Macapagal was whisked to a presidential car in the tarmac. The convoy of presidential vehicles exited at Andrews Avenue to avoid the heavy traffic on Domestic Road, the road fronting the domestic airport.

Stations of the cross

Her next stop was the Philtranco terminal in Pasay City.

She boarded a bus bound for Legazpi just to shake hands with the passengers.

Reporters, cameramen and photographers followed the President hopping from place to place, in a dizzying frenzy.

One radio reporter noted that it was like doing the "stations of the cross."

After her Philtranco visit, she went to her Forbes Park home before proceeding to the North Luzon Expressway, supposedly to check on traffic.

But the visit caused monstrous traffic jams in the area.

The traffic situation worsened wherever her convoy passed.

At the Balintawak cloverleaf, the convoy had to counter-flow because vehicles were not moving at their lane, resulting in more traffic jams.

"Everybody stopped. All were frozen. You'll get mad because of the traffic," said one reporter who stayed with the convoy.

Another reporter noted that the President's inspection visits were "pointless, senseless."

"The visits became a Calvary for commuters," said another radio reporter.

The presidential convoy reached Balagtas, Bulacan where the President had a 10-minute briefing with department of transportation officials.

Reporters learned that traffic had to be stopped along Edsa and along other roads that the President had passed to make way for her long convoy.

Pope tells priests: Confess more

(From page A1)

past several years due to the parishioners loss of the sense of sin and the priests' loss of enthusiasm to administer the sacrament of reconciliation.

Shortage

The CBCP also recently sounded the alarm over the shortage of Filipino priests. The ideal ratio of the number of priests to parishioners is one priest for every 5000 parishioners, according to CBCP media director, Hernando Coronel. But the national ratio, he said, is a staggering one priest for every 20,000 parishioners.

"There is even one community in Bagong Silang in Caloocan City, where you have just one priest for 80,000 parishioners," Coronel pointed out.

Priests take center stage on Holy Thursday. In the morning the Mass of Chrism is celebrated by the Bishop with all his priests. Together, they renew their priestly vows. In the evening, the Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated, where the institution of the Holy Eucharist is the center point.

The intimate unity between the two sacraments should not be missed. The Holy Orders is meant for the Holy Eucharist. The priest has his ultimate identity when he celebrates in the person of Christ the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and distributes holy communion.

With this evening Mass, the start of the Easter Triduum takes place. As the name denotes, it is a three-day affair, beginning Thursday evening to Sunday, that liturgically commemorates the highest point of the entire Christian life—the Easter mystery that includes the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord.

This Easter mystery is considered the culmination and summary of the entire redemptive work of Jesus.

There is a most interesting unity that has to be appreciated in this Easter Triduum. The institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper is intimately and inseparably connected with the bloody passion and death of our Lord, and with his triumphant and glorious resurrection.

This is the indescribable significance of the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Obviously, it is something that can only be accessed through faith. God's love for us, which is in the form of his Son becoming man, Jesus Christ, who offered his life on the Cross, is made available to us and actively given to us through this sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

The Holy Eucharist, under its three aspects of the sacrifice of the Mass, as spiritual food of Holy Communion, and as real divine presence in the Blessed Sacrament, contains not only the symbol but the very person of Christ, his body, blood, soul and divinity.

Living thing

The Eucharist is a living thing, not an inert object. It does not only contain grace but the very author of grace. It is what unites earth with heaven, what gives coherence and meaning to all parts of time, and unites the time of man with the eternity of God.

Opus Dei founder Blessed Josemaria Escriva once described the Eucharist as a madness of love on the part of God who is not content with simply being good to us, but rather gives his very own self to us, through his Son in the Holy Spirit.

The Church describes it as the source and summit of the entire Christian life. Everything is contained in it, everything that is for our salvation and all that it implies. Thus, it is said to be the prime force that builds up not only the individual's spiritual life, but also the whole Church itself, as a mystical body of Christ.

After the evening Mass, the faithful affirms their faith and love in the Blessed Sacrament through the Filipinos' blessed tradition of the Visita Iglesia.

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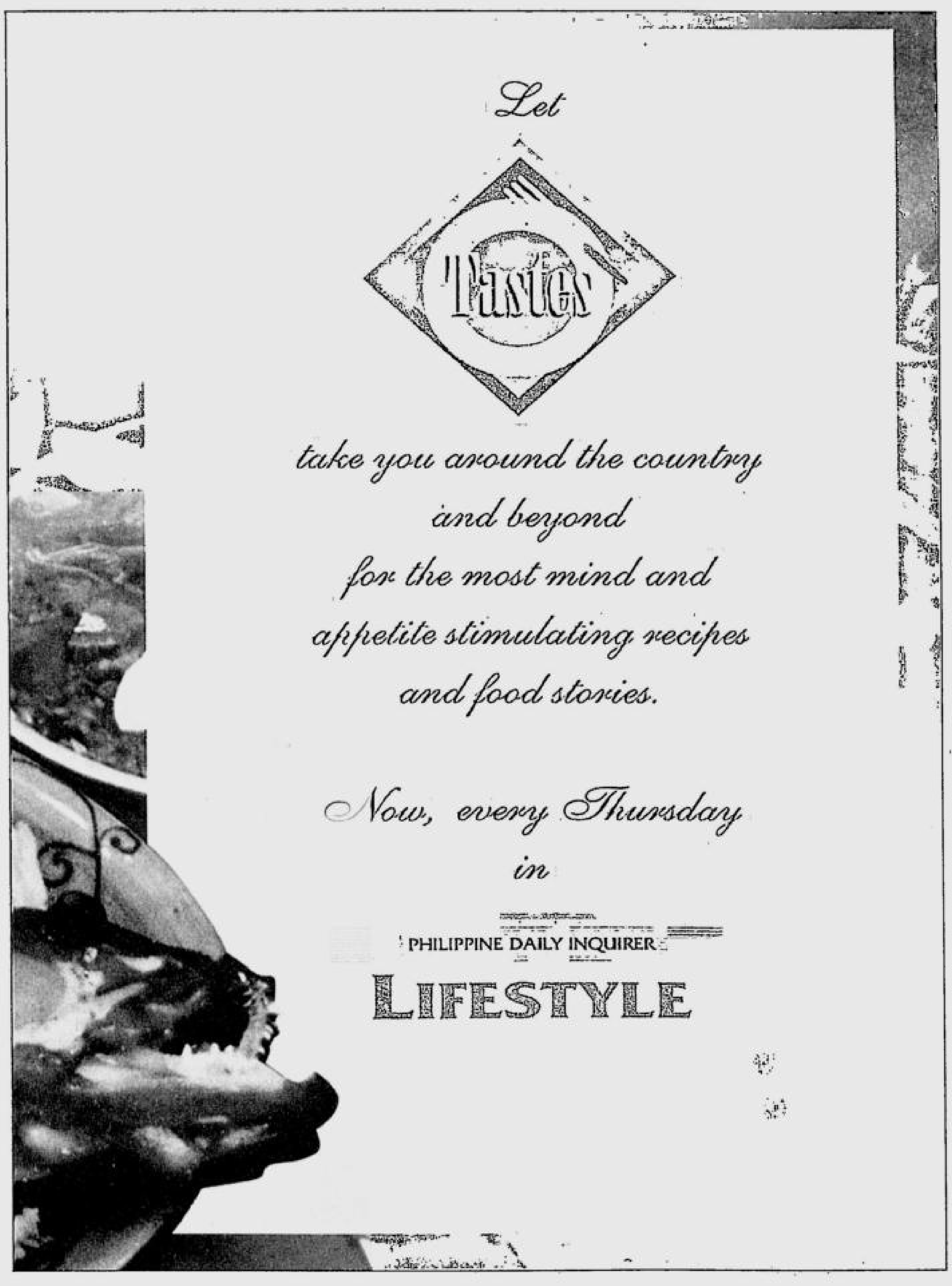

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OPINION

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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EDITORIALS

Clout

IT was described as a mere "presentation," but the meeting Tuesday between President Macapagal-Arroyo and prisoner Norberto Manero Jr. was occasion for deep disgust just the same. Here was the convicted murderer of Italian missionary Tullio Favali, who escaped from prison late last month and surrendered to authorities only on Monday after much hemming and hawing and attendant publicity, being granted the privilege of a brief meeting with the highest official of the land. And before TV cameras yet. There were handshakes—easy to execute given that the prisoner was not handcuffed—even a little smile and a "*Maayong pagbalik*" from the President. Good Lord. You'd think Manero was some local beauty come triumphantly home with an international title.

There is no ignoring this incredible incident involving the otherwise very proper Ms Macapagal. While it has been made fairly obvious all these years that Manero has clout, the face-to-face encounter shows that the clout comes with a capital C. Surely it can't be just a concession to Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza, to whom Manero had surrendered?

If Renato Corona, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, is not livid with embarrassment, the attentive observer would agree that he damn well should be. He said quite a mouthful the other day, indicating that the President had better things to do than give the prisoner the time of day. Well, she gave him more than that, surprising even Eduardo Ermita, her adviser on the peace process.

This is not a minor matter. To be sure, the presidency has been bruised and battered by leaders who regarded it as an instrument solely for personal gain. But in these fragile times when the country is struggling mightily to get back on its feet, with no assurance of unqualified success, the presidency as symbol and institution should not be demeaned further.

Open secret

WHAT is it about Norberto Manero Jr. that opens doors and ignores the pronouncements of presidents' spokespersons?

It's an open secret that the man has long enjoyed the protection of politicians and military and police officials. As early as the Marcos dictatorship, he and his brother Edilberto, then members of the dreaded cult Tadtad, saw action in the military's counterinsurgency operations in North Cotabato. His pardon in 1999, the disclosure of which was met by public outrage, was something Joseph Estrada as president was unable to live down.

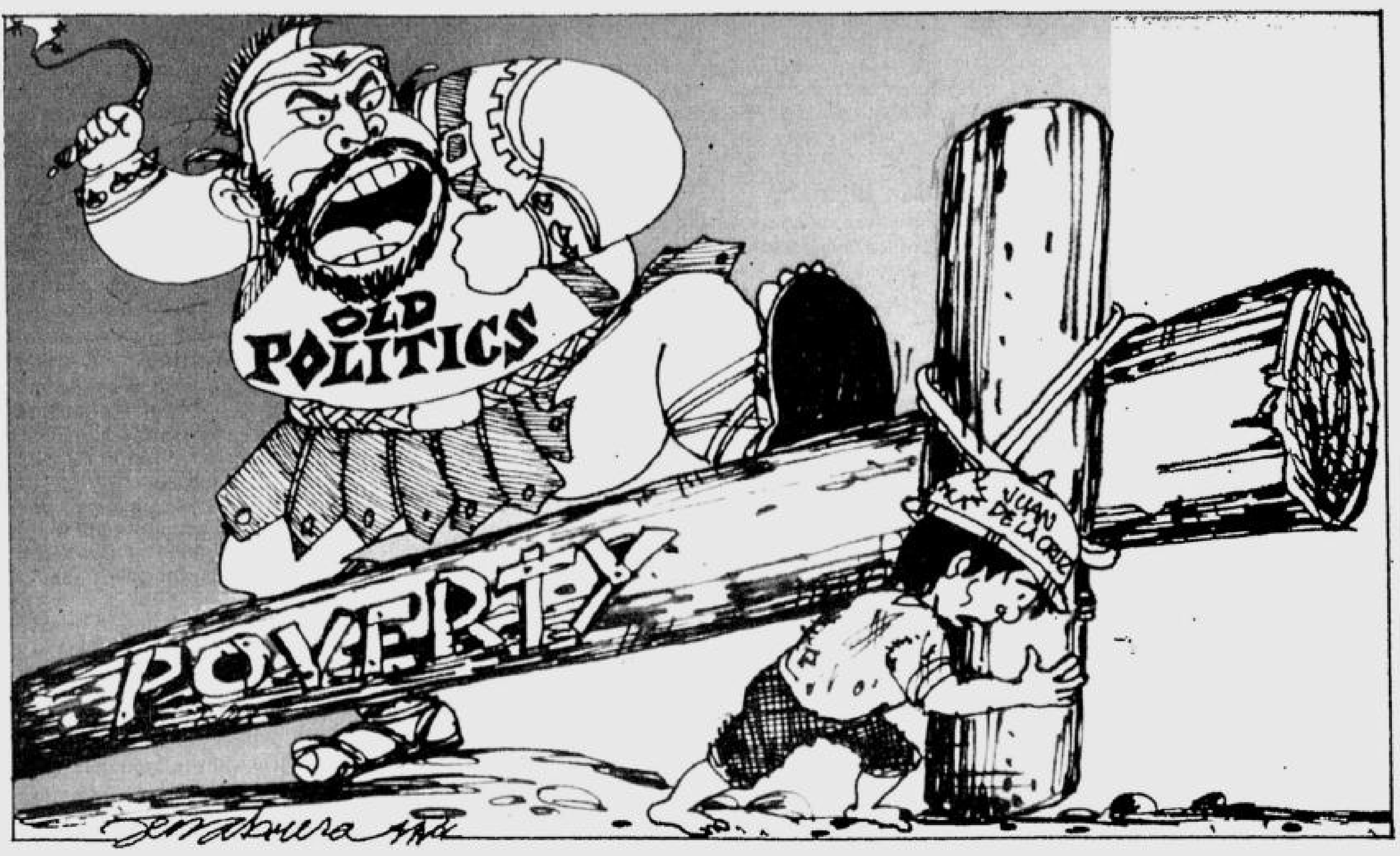
There have been no sufficient explanations for his frequent transfers to and from various prisons, including the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa, and these loose ends have served to boost the suspicion that for all—and because of—his notoriety for barbarity, he is a man of influence and impeccable connections. (And now of means, it might be added, given that he is said to be in a position to make donations of tracts of land.)

Is it any wonder that his famous escapes, at least once pulled off after being moved from maximum to medium security, are suspected as having been made possible with the collusion of authorities? For example, two jeeploads of armed men were reported to have provided cover when he and another convicted murderer, Rogelio Espinosa, escaped from the Davao prison in May 1992. On top of that, the prison guards on duty at the time went scot-free, and the case was abruptly considered closed.

It is indicative of Manero's important status that months after that escape, he was reported to be in the custody of a military colonel. Only after Rep. Gregorio Andolana's announcement of his sighting at a political gathering in October 1992 in Cotabato City were authorities moved to have him returned behind bars. By Andolana's account, Manero was spotted in the company of military intelligence agents and "so near" then President Fidel Ramos' entourage. Manero was supposed to be on a "mission" at the time.

This is but part of the shadowy past of the man to whom the President granted an audience, no matter how brief. We're not even talking about the alleged human rights violations and criminal acts that he, along with his brother and cohorts, perpetrated as members of the Civilian Home Defense Forces.

The President has been expressing gratitude to the military more times than are comfortable, as though she were paying off a heavy indebtedness. Is this another occasion for such expressions?



Impoverished

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SOMEONE wrote me to say I should stop wasting my time—and his—writing about records and books, movies and plays, Cecile Licad and Anastasia Chebotareva, and concentrate instead on the big issues the way I did during the impeachment trial. Indeed, he says, I should stop wasting my time—and his—reflecting on things like sun and rain, beaches and mountains, life and death, and analyze instead the political and economic currents rippling through this country.

I am writing this to annoy him.

Fortunately, he is the minority. Most readers applaud when I "take a break from politics." I actually marvel at people who are able to make politics a 24-hour preoccupation—24-hour because politics is probably the stuff even of their dreams. I hate it when I am introduced as a political analyst in talks and interviews. I am not. I am an observer who is trying as best he can to make sense of the world around him. A great deal of that world is political and economic. But an even greater part of it is not.

It is about remarkable persistence of vinyl records, the phenomenal strides taken by Chinese and Iranian movies (as well indeed as the crashing of Hollywood by Chinese directors and actors), the even more phenomenal rise of brilliant young fictionists [illegible] India, the revolution wrought by digital technology, the futility of the American record industry trying to stop piracy amid the ease and inexpensiveness of cloning CDs (I've always thought that was a vindication of Karl Marx's theory that the sudden release of "productive forces" during critical periods in human history will wreak havoc on prevailing property relations and compel change—but that is politics), the spectacular sunsets of these magic-realist islands.

The last, quite incidentally, I had a magical view of only a couple of weeks ago on a flight to Cebu. The plane was delayed and by the time we started descending toward Mactan, the sun was setting. The scene was almost surreal. The edge of the sea was afire, an explosion of bright red shimmering on the water and limning the enormous columns of clouds that rose to its left. The clouds themselves looked like paintings of the portals of heaven, or comic-book illustrations of a kingdom in the sky. I thought that must be where they got their inspiration for those things: you didn't need to imagine anything, all you had to do was draw that scene exactly as you saw it. The water below was absolutely still and looked like glazed glass amid the shadow crossing its face. That was how the first human beings must have seen the world, falling to their knees in awe and wonder. Though it was sunset and I was in an airplane, I had the sensation of standing at the dawn of creation.

I do not feel that I am wasting my time at least when I write about these things. I do not feel that I have nothing important to say when I write about these things. Fortunately, most readers don't either. I remember telling an audience 10 years ago during a book launching about how I thought the demarcation between politics and economics on one hand and culture and the arts on the other was an artificial one. That demarcation was physically wrought in newspapers in their Section A and Section B, Section A being the hard stuff, the news, politics and the economy, and Section B being the soft stuff, the "human interest" stories, arts and culture. That division carried with it implicit judgments of important and unimportant, judgments reviewers of books, movies, and food know only too well—and rightfully resent.

I refuse to acknowledge that line of demarcation in column-writing. I've always thought life was a seamless web and you went from strand to strand with the ease of going from dzFE to dzNU. I put "taking a break from politics" in quotation marks above because even that phrase presumes that politics should be the natural preoccupation of column-writers, and the rest is respite. Art is just as important as politics, culture is just as important as economics. In the scheme of things—though most readers will probably not agree with me on this one—they are more so.

I cannot imagine a greater impoverishment than going through life having no ear for music, no eye for painting, no nose for flowers (well, also "nose for news"), no taste for wine, no feel for love. Or thinking them to be the most useless things in the world, which of course they are in a sense. That is the greater impoverishment, not knowing you are deprived. I cannot imagine a more a tragic figure than a rich person who collects paintings for the sheer joy of acquiring them, even though he cannot distinguish a Manansala from an Egay Fernandez. I cannot imagine a more pitiable figure than a rich person who hoards rare recordings for the sheer joy of knowing he has them, even though he cannot tell a Duke Ellington from a Cole Porter. Youth is often wasted on the young? Richness is often wasted on the rich.

Each time somebody tells me to stop musing and write about the things that matter, I remember a roommate from college who had a great-sounding stereo. He was particularly proud of it because he made it himself. He had a knack for electronics, and after enrolling in a correspondence school in electronics based in the United States, he had managed painstakingly to build the equipment from whence issued the magnificent sounds.

There was only one problem. Which was that he would not allow anyone to touch it. And every time I wanted to listen to his cassettes, which he had in abundance, he would slip one in and talk at length and loudly about the state-of-the-art virtues of his amplifier. More to the point, he would eject the cassette after a few bars of a song and push in another to demonstrate the range of acoustical capabilities of his creation. At one point, I could not restrain myself and expostulated, "Do you suppose we could finish *one* song?"

He stared at me as though I were from outer space and asked in a tone of great puzzlement, "Why?"

Something worth pondering on this day of deepest darkness.

Note: While Mr. Neal Cruz is on his annual vacation, Conrad de Quiros' column will occupy this space on Thursdays and Fridays except when Mr. Cruz is able to come across with his column from time to time. Mr. Cruz will resume writing regularly in early May.—**Ed.**

One person, one vote

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

THE PHILIPPINES has a legislative electoral system no one understands, least of all those who designed it. The Commission on Elections doesn't understand it. The Supreme Court doesn't. The voters don't. I must confess my own exasperation at the hodgepodge of confusion we have managed to create. Good intentions do not necessarily create good law. The recent result has been a cacophony of complaints about the process being hijacked by one group or another.

The creature that eventually came out of the swamp called Congress is not sectoral. Nor is it proportional representation. Nor is it a true party list. What is it? No one as yet can tell, except that it must come from outer space since no similar electoral monster exists on this planet.

To understand our elections, we have to stray away for a moment from the field of law to the field of political science and theory. Democracy is about the people ruling themselves. Very few states do this directly, the Swiss cantons obviously coming to mind. The rest, republics, invest representatives of the people with power over the common weal for a term.

How we elect those representatives tells us about how faithful we are to democracy. The ideal is one person, one vote—just as in direct democracies—so that the government truly represents the nation. There are several ways to attempt this. Until recently, we only used the "first past the post" system: the one with the most votes wins. The problem with that system is that it does not represent those who voted for losing candidates. And where there are multiple candidates, as we often have, in a field of four, one could win with 40 percent of the vote, ironically leaving the majority unrepresented in the legislature.

We tried to reform this by providing for sectoral representatives. This was an unhappy experience. None were elected, but were appointed. The relationship to the sector claimed to be represented was often tenuous at best. This process transferred power not to the most marginalized, who were unorganized, but to elites claiming to represent them. And the democratic concept of one person, one vote was completely betrayed.

Beginning 2001, we again changed the system to have some 200 representatives elected by district and another 53 by what is called, but is not in actuality, a party-list system. A party-list system in its pure form mimics proportional representation, eliminating the problem of non-representation. The farmers want to be a voice? They put up a party. If they get 20 percent of the votes, they get 20 percent of the seats in the legislature.

The same holds true for each sector. The secret is organization. Ideally, the outcome is a legislature that mirrors the society it represents. Here the focus is on ideas, not personalities. It represents the end of dynasties and of turncoatism: you switch parties and you lose your seat because it is the party that is elected, not the individual.

But there are problems here too. This party-list system encourages multi-parties. This means weak coalitions that need to appease every interest group in order to cobble together a parliamentary majority. And geographic districts are not represented.

The 1987 Constitution compromised by providing for both district and party-list elections. Fatally, it included mention of sectors in the language, giving an opening to the argument in fact, if not in law, that the party-list system had to do with sectoral, rather than proportional, representation. The result was the present electoral law that is a hodgepodge of concepts, with so many compromises that it ultimately betrays the concept of proportional representation and democracy.

There is an argument, and a strong one, for a minimum number of votes for a party to get a seat. If a party can be represented no matter how small its vote, fringe interests will make representative parliamentary democracy all but impossible. A ceiling on the number of seats you can win is much harder to understand. If one party has 80 percent of the votes of the people, it should receive 80 percent of the seats. That is democratic theory at its best. But under the present system, even if a party got 100 percent of the votes, it can only win a few seats. Typically, the response of interest groups and politicians has been to create tens, even hundreds, of parties.

The way to get representation for marginalized groups is not through the manipulation of democracy to produce predetermined outcomes. Rather, it is the same way African-Americans got to the table of power in America: organize them, educate them, make them vote.

Regretfully, what we have created instead is an alphabet soup of parties and organizations for the party-list system that is incomprehensible to even the most astute voter. Who they represent and who they claim to represent are two different matters, and in any event a matter of utmost confusion to all voters. In the end, we will have 20 percent of the legislative seats in the Lower House that are to be elected under a system that is a parody of democracy unseen since Stalin created similar representative "sectors" in the Soviet parliaments of the 1920s and 1930s.

If elected, these 53 are responsible to no one since no one can claim to have elected them, except perhaps the most powerful political powerbrokers in the provinces or in the national government. The system has betrayed the whole concept of electoral responsibility and democracy.

Moreover, the system is almost surely entrenched. The elected 53 party-list congressmen are hardly going to permit a reform of the law that got them elected in the first place. And until a future Supreme Court reviews the current system and has the insight and courage to find it unconstitutional as violative of the principle of one person, one vote or until we adopt a new Constitution, what we see is what we will get, which isn't very much.

The truth is democracy will advance not through gerrymandering gimmicks but through education, economic growth and hard work. We cannot advance our democratic ideals by betraying them, or save democracy by destroying it. One person, one vote is the core of representative, or even direct, democracy. Our party-list system needs to be reviewed to hone it back to its pure conceptual origins. But don't hold your breath waiting for that. What was that thing again about camels and the eye of the needle? Just substitute politicians for rich men and we'd get it just about right for Holy Thursday in the middle of a campaign season.

Abolishing cart rental at Naia a laudable move

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently had a series of laudable moves, but there was one questionable one. Very correct was her move to abolish the P50 rental fee for baggage carts at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. This was long overdue. In very few airports around the world are carts rented. The airport fee of P550 should take care of this. The cart rental raked in a lot of money over three administrations, but the beneficial effects have remained unclear. The popular notion was that the fees were just lining the pockets of a privileged few. Besides, many of those carts are in a shabby condition.

Meeting with Norberto Manero, however, did not sit well with the public, as this was unnecessary and only dignified the priest-killer. Ms Macapagal's time is precious—in Limay, Bataan, I had a chance to exchange two sentences with her and she said, in answer to my observation about her hectic schedule, that there were some 70 requests made for appointments with her that day alone. Which is why her planners have to screen them well.

* * *

Things are really heating up politically. Civic leader Melon Recto-Silverio, PPC-Lakas congressional candidate for Makati's first district, the seat being vacated by third-termer Joker Arroyo, frantically called up this column yesterday morning from the precinct headquarters in Makati's City Hall. Agents of former Mayor Jojo Binay, who is making a comeback, allegedly arrested her people as they were sticking up posters and detained them; they were being investigated by a SPO2 named Rickynel Corpus. That is the second episode.

Rushing to the *presinto*, the PPC candidate learned from her followers that there were people from various groups who were sticking up posters together; in fact the Melon people were pasting side by side with those of publisher Teddy Boy Locsin, Melon's rival, who's being supported by the Binays. But Melon said Locsin's people were not arrested at all. "It was only my people who were detained for vandalism for reportedly going beyond the common poster board," whereas all the other candidates were doing the same thing. "This is harassment, plain and simple," she said. In a gesture of active non-violence learned perhaps from the Franciscan tertiary order to which she belongs, Melon refused to leave until her people were freed.

* * *

The Makati PPC candidate also complained that Binay's people have been systematically tearing down her posters or papering them over with those of his candidates, while her husband, Abet Silverio, added that Binay's people would even turn off power in some barangays where his candidate-wife would be campaigning. They also complained about supporters being threatened about store licenses. But these allegations of harassments, if true, are only generating for this candidate, who's virtually unknown compared to her prominent rivals, instant sympathy. Binay should fire Oloy Javier, whose Solid Waste Management unit arrested the poster-pasters.

Melon, long on energy and idealism but short on funds, has chosen to take on the powerful Binay couple, in a David versus Goliath crusade. It's interesting to see how far her campaign would go in this arena where the political lord who has held power for 15 years has a string of cases before the Ombudsman and is due for arraignment this coming April 27.

By the way, that Comelec ruling about candidates confining their posters to the common billboard is being violated everywhere and by every candidate. The poll body should not put up a rule that cannot be enforced, since this will result in simple harassment.

* * *

Former Comelec Chief Harriet Demetriou reacted to allegations raised here that so many things were left unattended during her time. I cited that when our group of media women met with new Comelec Chief Alfredo Benipayo earlier last month, more than 80,000 ballot boxes still had to be ordered to complete the 250,000 boxes needed. I also cited the observation of some people that Demetriou did not want to be controversial or go against the cantankerous Commissioner Luz Tancangco as the former was more interested in getting appointed to the Supreme Court.

Demetriou, in a letter, said the Commission on Elections in her administration and of her successor Benipayo, should not be blamed for the ballot boxes' lack, for as early as October 2000, she had already urged Congress to approve the budget for the 2001 elections and had called public attention to it. However, the budget was released only last Feb. 21, 2001, 19 days after she had retired, one reason being the Senate impeachment trial. What was released during her time, said Demetriou, was the amount of P220 million which went to maintenance and operating expenses.

The former poll chief also stressed that her 15-year record as a public servant would bear out that she went against the wishes of certain officials when it was necessary, and that she "never sacrificed or compromised my principle by giving political accommodation so I could retain my position or obtain a promotion." Demetriou said that as chief presidential legal counsel, she stood against the approval of the Marconi radar contract by President Estrada. She also disapproved the Voters Registration and Information System project of Commissioner Tancangco, and to date this has not been approved.

* * *

The Family Rosary Crusade (FRC), established by the late Fr. Patrick Peyton, celebrated its Golden Jubilee recently with a star-studded two-hour telethon called "50 Rosaries for 50 Days" on ANC, the ABS-CBN news channel, and devotees called in their pledges of 50 rosaries each. The 50 days began last March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, and ends on May 13, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, which is also the eve of the elections.

The FRC's "50 Rosaries for 50 Days" project seeks to bring back the glory and tradition of praying the rosary—once a popular and favorite daily activity of the predominantly Catholic Filipino population, who seriously took to heart Father Peyton's famed counsel, "The Family that prays together stays together."

* * *

The FRC telethon project aims to pray for clean, peaceful and orderly elections, and that the Filipino people will make wise and correct choices of leaders. It is directed by Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J., and chaired by Bing Gomez.

You may still call in your pledge for the "50 Rosaries for 50 Days" project by calling Ms Gennie Jota at the Family Rosary Crusade office at 521-6953/524-2779, or e-mail payton@familyrosaryphilippines.net.

The light of creativity and inspiration

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

INSPIRATIONAL indeed is the valedictory address delivered by Roselle R. Ambubuyog, who graduated valedictorian and summa cum laude from the Ateneo de Manila University, last March 24 at the Ateneo High School Covered Courts.

Roselle has become the toast of the media not only for her academic achievements, but more so because she achieved all these despite the fact that she has been blind since childhood.

As Roselle recounts in her address, her success in Ateneo, one of the more demanding (and expensive) institutions of learning in this country, was the result not only of her own abilities and intelligence, but also of the creativity, caring and persistence of her family, friends and teachers. Following is a reprint of the first part of Roselle's address, with the concluding portion published in Sunday's column. Roselle entitled her piece "Seeing in the Dark by the Light of the Stars."

* * *

SOME of you may wonder why I was guided up this stage, and why I wear dark glasses. You see, I am totally blind. I have been blind for 15 years now. Yet God did not leave me groping in the dark, but has actually given me stars to light my way. Four years ago, I took the entrance test, after the Office of Admission and Aid, then headed by Dr. Manny Dy, hired a special education teacher from the Philippine National School for the Blind to Braille the test. When I passed, Fr. Ben Nebres encouraged me to major in mathematics, since he had met blind students in Stanford University who were able to do so. I hesitated, thinking that although I loved numbers, math seemed a course too "visual" for me to handle. To my delight, the Ateneo offered to purchase special equipment: Translator software to convert text from print to Braille, and a printer to produce exams and reading materials in Braille format.

Thus I enrolled here, half dreading the problems and changes which teachers and I would inevitably confront. From the start, however, all the teachers were willing to adjust their teaching methods to meet my needs. Dr. Queena Lee-Chua and Dr. Flor Francisco surfed the Net for appropriate technology and approaches. Soon we were able to solve inconveniences, like making Braille versions of long and complicated tables such as those of statistical data and probability values, even the Periodic Table of chemical elements.

* * *

MOREOVER, we had to improvise laboratory apparatus to enable me to perform experiments. Dr. Toby Dayrit, Dr. Noreen Gonzales, and my father placed Braille labels on the triple beam balance to mark its calibrations so that I could measure masses. Also, for measuring liquid volumes, they made indentations along the side of a syringe plunger, where the distance between consecutive slits corresponded to a milliliter of liquid. It was the combined creative imagination of my family and teachers that allowed me to visualize the things I needed to see. Since I had lost my sight only at the age of 6, I was capable of sketching a mental picture of something being described to me in exquisite detail. For instance, Dr. Cathy Vistro-Yu used her little daughter's toys of various shapes to explain to me what hyperbolic paraboloids, ellipsoids and other quadric surfaces looked like.

I was not exempt from regular requirements. Just like any ordinary student, I had to take physical education courses. My instructor in ballroom dancing, Ms Weena Lorenzo, painstakingly directed me through the steps of cha-cha, boogie and swing. She paid meticulous attention to how my hands and feet should move, to every twist of the body, and to the shifting of my weight from one foot to the other. We thank our mentors for being good teachers from whom we learn a lot. But I am certain that each of us has encountered teachers who helped us best by becoming students themselves: open to learning new things, developing better methods, nurturing our true potentials. Other students also supported me in my determined quest to excel. One dearest to me who shares part of my success is Ria Beth Cuevas, a fellow math major. During class hours, when my father would not be with me, Ria would be my guide, accompanying me as I moved from one building to another. Sitting beside me in every class, she would read to me the writing on the blackboard, or printed materials. She would trace graphs on my palm with her finger so that I could feel and imagine them. Whenever I had to do research, get something photocopied, have lunch at the cafeteria, listen to films and plays, Ria was always there to help me SEE. Other friends have been similarly kind, and I am equally grateful to them. I believe everyone's life is blessed to have a Ria Beth, a person whose genuine kindness is a human miracle that eases the pain of suffering.

* * *

MY experiences were not limited to the campus. In February of last year, I attended the National Ayala Young Leaders Congress in Tagaytay as one of 70 student delegates from all over the country. Part of our leadership-training activities were challenges to physical strength and courage. In one event, teams of three delegates wearing safety harnesses climbed a 50-foot wall. The one in the middle was blindfolded, and the other two were responsible for indicating hand- and footholds. Two students volunteered to be my teammates, and though it was not necessary, I was blindfolded.

We slowly progressed in our climb, my feet slipping sometimes off footholds and my hands groping for protruding stones on the wall. But we reached the top! Exhausted, we completed the activity by rappelling. I realized then how much more we could do if we dared go beyond what appear to be our limits. Even if fears persist to hinder us from achieving something, what really matters is the shift from "I can't do it," to "I can try." I went beyond my impairment by doing not only what sighted people can do, but also what they sometimes are too frightened to try.

Defining civil society

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE PHRASE reemerged from political philosophy books and became the catchphrase among organized groups in the Philippines in the 1990s. But long before the name "civil society" was on our lips, that reality had been alive and at work in our social arena. It had another name: NGO, PO (people's organization), cause-oriented and human rights groups, underground movements, people power.

One day these groups learned they all had a name: civil society. Where does it apply? Now post-modern political thinkers are trying to figure it all out.

Civil society, a website on the subject says, is "a broad term denoting the wide range of organizations operating outside the government and business sectors. (It) has taken on greater significance in a world in which the state is increasingly beset from within by armed rebellions and ethnic tensions and from without by the border-leaping forces of globalization."

Civil society goes hand in hand with so-called civic culture, one that arises from and supports a liberal democracy and produces free and equal individuals in a liberal democratic state.

In a monograph on civil society, Isagani Serrano writes: "The relation between state and society may be described in a number of simplistic ways: one, strong state but weak civil society; two, weak state but strong civil society; three, weak state and weak civil society; four, strong state and strong civil society. Strong does not necessarily mean authoritarian and repressive but rather effective in getting citizens' allegiance by persuasion or compelling obedience if needed. A strong state and strong civil society is the preferred scenario."

Michael W. Foley and Bob Edwards, in their essay "The Paradox of Civil Society," see a problem in definition because of the different ways civil society had been applied in various times and places. "Does it, for instance, include business (the market) as well as voluntary organizations, or does the market constitute a separate 'private' sphere? What about political organizations? Does it make sense...to distinguish 'civil' from 'political' society? If so, how are we to distinguish between political associations per se and the political activities of groups in civil society, from interest groups to religious bodies, which are intermittently mobilized in pursuit of political goals? Just when does the 'civil' become the 'political'?

"If, as some hold, civil society's chief virtue is its ability to act as an organized counterweight to the state, to what extent can this happen without the help of political parties and expressly political movements?"

Foley and Edwards make two rough distinctions between two broad versions of the civil society argument and call them Civil Society I and Civil Society II.

The first is crystallized in Alexis de Tocqueville's "Democracy in America" with important antecedents in the world of the 18th-century moralists Adam Smith, Adam Ferguson and Francis Hutchison. "This approach puts special emphasis on the ability of associational life in general and the habits of association in particular to foster patterns of civility in the actions of citizens in a democratic society.

"The second version, articulated most forcefully by Jacek Kuron, Adam Michnik and their associates in formulating a strategy for resistance to Poland's communist regime in the 1980s, is also evident in recent literature on processes of 'redemocratization' in Latin America." Civil society is "a sphere of action that is independent of the state and that is capable—precisely for this reason—of energizing resistance to a tyrannical regime."

But there are skeptics. David Rieff, in his essay "The False Dawn of Civil Society," says: "When we put our faith in civil society, we are grasping at straws. Apart from a few principled nationalists, libertarians and Marxists, most well-intentioned people now view the rise of civil society as the most promising political development of the post-Cold War era. By itself, that fact only points to how desperate we are, on the cusp of the millennium, to identify any political paradigm offering some realistic prospect of a humane future."

Civil society, Rieff notes, is just a projection of our desires. As a concept, it has no specific gravity, "a little better than a Rorschach blot, the interpretations of which have been so massaged and expanded over the past 15 years that the term has come to signify everything—which is to say nothing.

"It has become a shorthand way of referring to all those democratically minded groups that have opposed and sometimes brought about the overthrow of repressive regimes in countries as varied as Marcos' Philippines, Abacha's Nigeria and Husak's Czechoslovakia."

Where civil society is absent, repressive, tyrannical, even genocidal forces are supposed to have a freer hand. Where it is present, it constitutes a firebreak against war, exploitation and want.

But here's the catch, Rieff points out. Those who view the emancipatory potential of civil society has been embraced by those who thrive in the development aid sector where assistance has been shifted from governments to NGOs and "has been justified not simply as the inevitable prudential response to states misusing aid but as a way of building civil society." Ouch.

Development specialists favor this new approach and insist that "a robust civil society will open the way for the integration of the poor world into the global economy—supposedly the first step toward prosperity."

Rieff need not worry. Again, it happened first in the Philippines. During the 1996 Apec meet in the Philippines, NGOs as "civil society" roared with a new voice for the shaping of national policies vis-à-vis a global trend and threat. These groups had fought long enough to realize that new global forces needed to be challenged by a new form of activism. The Battle in Seattle happened later.

Filipino civil society, not to worry, is still cause-oriented, vigilant and activist. But with less Cold War ideological baggage. The Cold War is over. The new challenge/threat, are globalization and liberalization.

New name, new vision, but the same "habits of the heart."

Summertime

YOUNGBLOOD

Reynold Glenn S. Jaboneta

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

I HAD my first swimming lessons in the river that ran though our barrio. It was the river of my childhood. It had cool and crystal clear water. On its banks, a huge balete tree spread wide its leafy arms. It was a home for insects, birds and reptiles. Even when the sun was up and on its hottest, the water remained cool because of the shade of the tree. I had climbed and clung to its branches. I had used it as my first diving board. The water was deep and whenever the moon was at its brightest, I saw its reflection on the water. It had its stillness and as a child my imagination had brought life to a creature from the deep. It was a "sacred place" for me because of what I had learned. My grandfather told me that a spirit was guarding the tree and that a kingdom could be found underneath the river.

Today, the river I am talking about is dead. The river of my childhood is gone. The huge balete tree is now charcoal. Pieces of plastic, empty cans and bottles are scattered around the river. During summer the river is dry. The mystery is gone.

I am reminded of the river because it is summer. It is the time to enjoy the sea, the sun and sand. People will visit their favorite summer destinations. I may appear an oldie but to my mind it is now very expensive to enjoy nature whereas my childhood experiences remind me that it was free, filled with fun and relaxation in a very literal sense. Today, I do not know how I can totally relax when I have to worry about my bill after a week or so of staying in Boracay.

It is summer. It is the time to learn how to swim. The river of my childhood was my swimming pool. The branches of the balete, my diving board and the company of friends gave me all the instructions I would ever need. And it was all for free and, boy, did we have fun.

It is summer. It is time for remembering the river in whose water I had the chance to let the "child in me" be free. But I keep asking myself what went wrong and why.

Modernization reached our barrio. The bamboo houses are now concrete and walled with steel and pillars of stones. Cable television and cellular phones made an impact on people's lives. My neighbors no longer believe in spirits dwelling in trees. Many of my contemporaries flocked to Manila to look for a better life. I heard that some ended up as *kasambahay* or security guards. I observed that they have also been influenced by the kind of life a big city gives those who reside there. The word sophisticated, I think, best suits them.

It is summer. It is time for fiestas and reunions. I am reminded of my neighbors and I am certain they will be back. I am certain they will visit our barrio. I am certain that they will bring along with them friends. This time I will make it a point that no starfish, no coral will be taken from the sea as souvenirs.

I am thinking of telling them a story about our river. It is the season of Lent. The Church is inviting everyone to reflect on the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. I think it is a good starting point for my reflection on the river of my childhood.

Since the beginning, I have been like the water of our river, crystal clear. I have been good. Since the beginning, the balete tree and the river have been connected. I participate in the cycle of life. Since the beginning, the face of the moon could be mirrored on the water of the river. I have been a reflection of God's goodness and love. Since the beginning, a spirit has been living in the tree.

But sin entered me. I am now an agent of destruction. Modernization is killing the spirit that dwells in the tree and in the river. Light can no longer penetrate into me. I am now an agent of death. I am isolated.

Yet, just like all other seasons, there will always be that one moment. One summertime of my life becoming my moment of conversion, a moment of grace and of hoping. It is now summertime and I am coming home. It is only in coming home that my resurrection to a new life can start anew. New life to the river and the "river within" where the journey of life flows and where the "image of God" is.

Reynold Glenn S. Jaboneta, 29, has traveled throughout the country in his quest for the will of God for him and to serve Him one day as a priest.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

Murder raps against Rep. Beratio

ON APRIL 6, 1988, Blas Climacosa was shot dead at his family's farm in Barangay Butucan, Nasugbu, Batangas. Climacosa who was from Magallanes, Cavite, was a known critic of the town mayor, Napoleon Beratio. At the time of his death, Climacosa was set to file criminal complaints against Beratio for the death of his two sons. His son Raymundo was killed on Dec. 25, 1986 on his way home to Cavite, while his other son Eugenio was gunned down also in their Batangas farm on Feb. 4, 1987.

For almost 10 years, not a single witness surfaced. But in 1997, a witness finally came out to shed light on Climacosa's death. Benito Paiton, who claimed to be Beratio's former close-in bodyguard, said that Beratio masterminded the killing of Climacosa. The mayor was allegedly threatened by Climacosa's rising popularity when he earned the people's sympathy due to the death of his two sons. With his political career allegedly in danger, Beratio allegedly issued guns to his driver, Rufino Angue, Gregorio Tagle and Ruben Bapol and ordered the killing of Climacosa.

On Jan. 22, 1998, Beratio was charged with murder for the death of the elder Climacosa before the Nasugbu Regional Trial Court in Batangas. Charged with him were Angue, Bapol and Tagle. The case was assigned to Judge Antonio de Sagun of Branch 14.

The court ordered the arrest of the accused on Feb. 2, 1998. The next day, all accused voluntarily surrendered to the Nasugbu police and were detained at the municipal jail. They immediately filed a petition for bail.

On Feb. 12, the Department of Justice asked the Supreme Court for a transfer of venue saying that in the Nasugbu court, the witnesses do not have the liberty to reveal whatever information they have regarding Climacosa's death.

On Feb. 17, the Nasugbu court granted the petition for bail of the accused. On the same day, each paid the P50,000 bail bond and they were released from detention. The prosecution moved for a reconsideration of the granting of bail but it was denied on March 31 for lack of merit.

In a resolution issued June 16, the Supreme Court ordered the transfer of the case to the Manila RTC. The case was raffled off to the sala of Judge Perfecto Laguio of Branch 18 on July 21.

On Aug. 12, the accused filed a motion for reinvestigation and deferment of arraignment. It was denied on Sept. 16. The arraignment was held on Oct. 7 and all the accused pleaded not guilty.

On Aug. 21, 2000, the prosecution rested its case.

Instead of presenting its evidence, the defense filed a motion for voluntary inhibition of the judge on Aug. 28. The defense argued that in all instances when the prosecution moved for either postponement or continuance of the proceedings, the court readily granted them. But when the defense moved for the first and only time for a continuance, it was denied.

On Sept. 21, Laguio inhibited himself "for the peace of mind of the accused." The case was raffled off to Judge Teresa Soriaso of Branch 27 on Oct. 12.

Case status: Since its reraffle, the case has not moved. The records of the case were not yet turned over to Soriaso. Laguio's sala has not yet finished arranging them. The defense is set to present its witnesses when trial resumes. Beratio is now a congressman representing Cavite's third district.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

Downside to election campaigns

WHEN hearing a candidate's campaign jingle being broadcast by loudspeakers mounted on a truck or jeepney, one is forced to ask whether it is entirely legal. In UP (or Teachers') Village in Diliman, there are several barangay ordinances prohibiting horn-blowing and noisy tricycles. I am sure that UP Village is not unique in this respect. Are these measures to prevent noise pollution not applicable to campaign jingles?

In Maoist China, loudspeakers in public areas were commonplace; they blasted out ad nauseum the values of the new communist society and the evils of the capitalist roaders. Whether its listeners were bludgeoned into submission is debatable. In the context of the upcoming election, I adamantly refuse to be "shouted at" to vote for this candidate or that.

Candidates should not add anymore to the metropolis' widely known reputation for noise pollution. They should be content with the tons of paper they have inflicted on our cities with their posters.—**MIGUEL LIM, 168 Lipa St., Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City**

Mayor, not vice mayor

THANK you for featuring me in the INQUIRER's Saturday Special last April 7. The piece was accurate and engrossing. There was, however, one small oversight. The article referred to me as the vice mayor of Navotas.

To set the record straight, I have been the mayor of Navotas since May 12, 2000, when I assumed the post following the death of the incumbent.—**TOBIAS TIANGCO, mayor, Navotas, Metro Manila**

More discerning voters now

"*UUBUSIN ang mga* corrupt," is Joker Arroyo's campaign slogan. It's in his posters plastered all over Metro Manila. Lucky for us, we don't need to wait for Arroyo to win in the Senate before corrupt public officials like former President Joseph Estrada get their due. The Supreme Court has done its duty of junking Erap's absurd appeal that he is still president of this country. By doing so, the high court has opened the floodgate for the filing of plunder charges against the former president. The decision could not have come at a better time when the people are still thinking about whom to vote for in the coming elections.

As a religious voter (meaning I haven't failed to vote since I was able to), I can clearly see who among the present batch of candidates are worthy of being elected to public office. There are candidates who have been involved in scams and scandals. *Kapal ng apog ninyo.*

Luckily, Filipino voters like myself have become more discerning. Thanks to the wake-up call of the impeachment trial, which made us afraid of going through another Erap experience. We can only hope that corrupt officials are amply warned against committing further sins against the Filipino people. *Matuto na kayo!*—**JOSEPH MAGNO, Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas City**

Defending 'Heritage of Cebu'

WHEN Ambeth Ocampo wrote about the Heritage of Cebu in his column last March 9, it was later picked up and commented on by Bobit S. Avila in his "Inside Cebu" article dated March 25 in the Philippine Star.

When the first article came out, I shrugged my shoulders because I was confident that its allegations could easily be refuted by the Cebu locals who have had the opportunity to witness the sculpture in its totality, from conception.

The project Heritage of Cebu was fully researched with interviews from local historians and elders, as well as scholars. Input and comments were duly noted and added to the wholistic concept. It was then developed, conceptualized further and designed by the artist. The resulting design was then endorsed and approved by the National Historical Institute.

If one has had the opportunity to look closely, one shall note upon viewing the monument that the Heritage of Cebu features in one of its many accounts, the early barangay communities having been set up by early Asian migrants to Cebu. This is directly above the account of the fabled Ten Datus which have been used as the background of Lapu-Lapu and his two warriors: the monument's most imposing features. The First Filipino baptism, the early Sinulog celebrations, and the early Parian community are also featured on this elevation of the park.

The early galleon trade and its resulting influx of various races to Cebu are also featured in a grouping, among them individuals like Josephine Bracken. Local hero Leon Kilat with a flag, as well as the early Visayan costumes are also featured. The late President Sergio Osmeña is found in his own cove right by the rear entrance of the park. Even the newly beatified Cebuano, Pedro Calansud, is included in a poetic, pious stance. All these are set around the cross and the sculptural edifices of the old Cebu Cathedral, the Santo Niño Basilica and the old Pari-an Church.

LETTERS

The Heritage of Cebu is a rhythmic composition in a sculptural tableau rendered in a poetic storyline.

I cannot help but wonder how scholars with a penchant for detail can forego these huge ones present in the Heritage of Cebu. I am beginning to doubt whether Cebu was "revisited" at all. Perhaps, for clarity, it needs to be visited again.

It is very disappointing to note how the misinformation of "one visit" like this can possibly result in tarnishing the hardship of working for four years on a monumental work of art.

I thought a respected columnist in Cebu could refute Ocampo's article instead of riding on it. Obviously, I was mistaken.—**EDUARDO CASTRILLO, 3rd Floor, IDC Place, Zapote cor. Ponte Streets, Makati City**

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Whitewashed tombs

IT'S unfortunate that our Holy Week observances mainly commemorate Christ's passion and death without looking more deeply into the circumstances that led to his persecution and crucifixion. I am referring to the way he challenged the status quo, and especially religious hypocrisy.

The New Testament, especially the book by Matthew, has long accounts of Christ's often fiery encounters with the Pharisees and the Sadducees, two sects that controlled Jewish religious life at that time. Eventually, it was high priests and scribes from these two sects who turned Christ over to the authorities.

The terms "Pharisee" and "pharisaic" are now widely used to describe religious hypocrisy but people don't usually know who the original Pharisees and Sadducees were, and why they were so antagonized by Christ.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were Jewish sects that emerged in the 2nd century before Christ. The name "Pharisee" may have been derived from the Hebrew *"perusim,"* which means the "separated ones" or from *"parosim,"* which means the "specifiers." The "separated ones" theory may have some basis since the Pharisees considered themselves a breed apart, even from fellow Jews. They started out as pious middle-class Jews who had set up their own schools to counteract the influence of hellenism, or Greek philosophical thinking. Through this network of schools, they were able to gain a following among the masses, and eventually came to control religious activities.

The idea of the Pharisees as "specifiers" also has some basis since they were obsessed with ritual purity, and considered themselves the only ones worthy of interpreting God's law. They defined the specifics for observances of the Sabbath and other religious festivals, and what people could wear, eat, drink. One of the Pharisees had in fact questioned Christ for healing a sick man on the Sabbath, which they said was a breach of religious law.

The Sadducees were a different group, drawn mainly from the Jewish aristocracy. Again, the origins of their name are not clear. Some scholars say it came from Zadok, a Jewish priest, and others trace it to the Hebrew *"saddiq,"* meaning "the righteous." The Sadducees were more dogmatic than the Pharisees, insisting only on using written Scriptures to interpret religious law.

The rather elitist Sadducees were not too popular but the Pharisees had a significant following, and were respected as paragons of virtue and piety. Christ actually shared most of the Pharisees' religious beliefs and teachings, as we see from this admonition in Matthew 23: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, therefore do whatever they teach you and follow it..." Christ, however continues, "but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach" and goes into a long tirade against their hypocrisy. One milder example: "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in, you stop them."

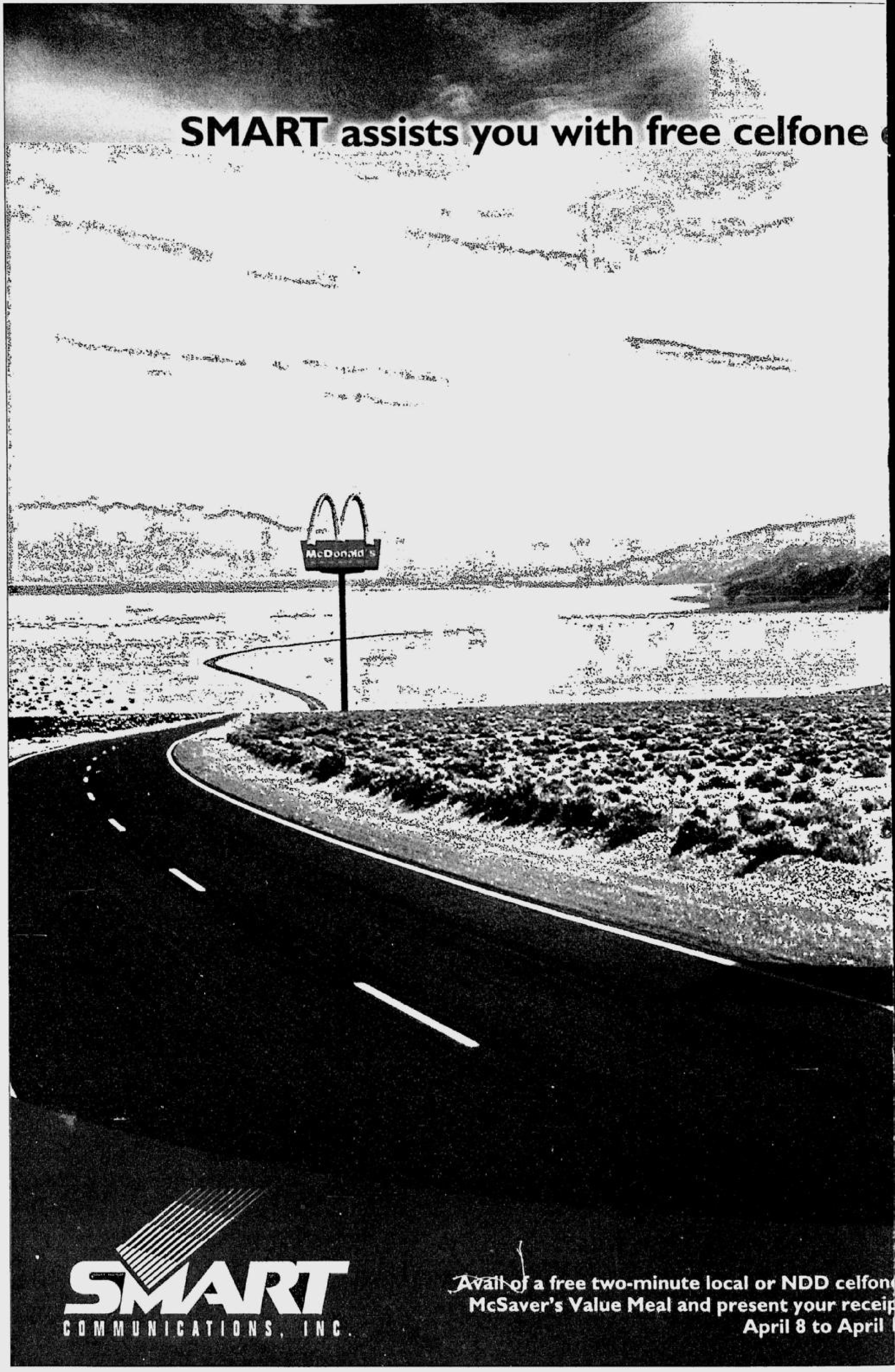
The Pharisees and Sadducees were threatened. In contrast to their rigid self-righteousness, Christ was preaching a new gospel of love, forgiveness and tolerance. Christ mingled too easily with people, including those who were perceived as "sinners." Once, while dining at a Pharisee's home, he had allowed a woman, who was known as a "sinner," to wash his feet. His Pharisee host protested but Christ allowed her to continue.

Christ remained consistent to the very end. After he rose from the dead, he first appeared not before his male disciples but before two women, one of them Mary Magdalene, who some scholars say was probably the same woman, the "sinner," who had washed his feet at the home of the Pharisee.

Matthew 23 has more passages where Christ lashes out at the Pharisees, comparing them to "broods of vipers" and "whitewashed tombs," The latter metaphor still lives today, the Italians using *"sepolcro imbiancato"* and the English "whited sepulchre" to refer to hypocrites. It is a powerful description that resonates in our times, as we continue to be plagued by latter-day Pharisees and the self-proclaimed Righteous Ones: "For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and all kinds of filth."

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org



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The WORLD

China claims victory, says US 'apologized'

Continental Airlines aircraft to pick up American spy plane crew via Guam

BEIJING—China yesterday claimed victory in the spy plane crisis with the United States and trumpeted a US statement of regret as the apology it had demanded.

A chartered Continental Airlines plane is to fly from Guam to pick up the 24 crew from the US spy plane stranded in China, military sources in Guam yesterday said.

The sources would not give any details of the aircraft or where it would head after leaving China's Hainan island.

CNN reported that the plane would leave around 1600 GMT for the roughly five-and-a-half hour flight to Hainan. It would return to Guam initially then take the crew on to Hawaii.

An editorial in the People's Daily in Beijing said a letter from Washington saying "sorry" over the collision of a US spy plane with a Chinese fighter on April 1 showed China had triumphed over US power politics.

"Our government and people have carried out a staunch struggle against American rule by force and compelled the United States to change its rude and unreasonable hardline attitude and apologize to the Chinese people," said the editorial, to appear in the Communist Party's mouthpiece on Thursday.

The Chinese decision to release the US crew came after US Ambassador Joseph Prueher presented a letter to Tang saying the US was "very sorry" for the loss of the fighter jet pilot in the incident.

The letter also said Washington was "very sorry" the crippled US plane had entered China's airspace without permission, even though it followed international aviation procedures.

Despite China's interpretation of Prueher's letter, the United States has refused to apologize and accept responsibility over the collision that occurred in international airspace off Hainan.

The editorial titled "Patriotic zeal will strengthen the nation's force" underscored Beijing's effort throughout the crisis to manage public opinion.

The People's Daily interpretation of the US statement highlighted the verbal gymnastics the two sides have displayed as they wrestled to find the right wording on the apology issue to resolve the 11-day stand-off.

The English version of the letter Prueher handed to the Chinese foreign ministry used the word "sorry" twice.

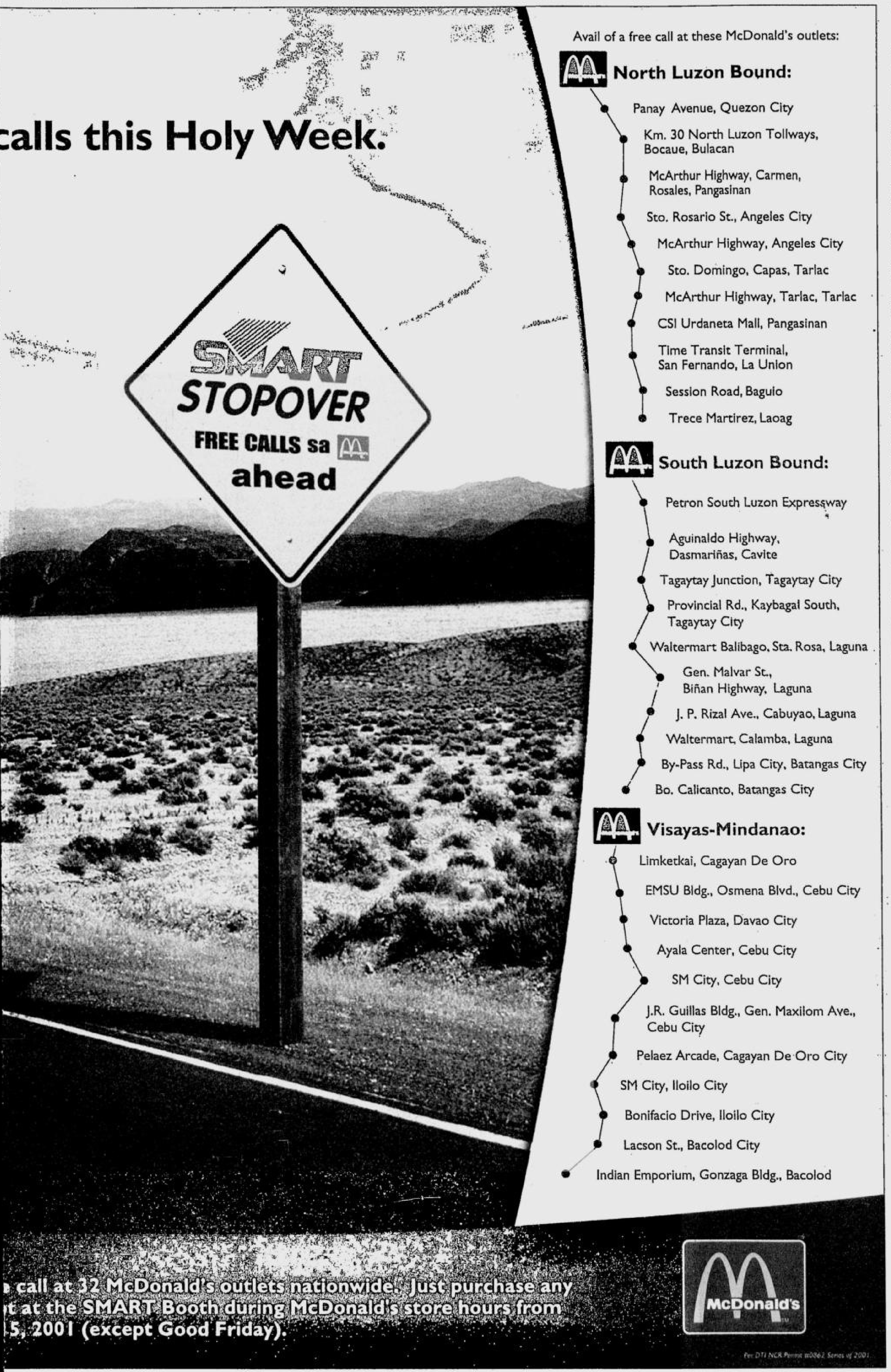
The Chinese language version used the word "wanxi," which is closer to meaning "express condolences," for the presumed death of the Chinese pilot in the collision.

But it uses the stronger word "baoqian," closer to the English "sorry" and "regret," for the US plane's unauthorized entry into Chinese air space.

Meanwhile the word used by the People's Daily for "apology" was "zhiqian," stronger than the two words used in the US statement.

But it is weaker than the strongest word for apology in Chinese, "daoqian," which the Chinese government had first demanded over the incident.

In the end, however, the US only expressed regret over the loss of the pilot's life and the plane's entry into China's airspace. *AFP*



calls this Holy Week.

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- Sto. Domingo, Capas, Tarlac
- McArthur Highway, Tarlac, Tarlac
- CSI Urdaneta Mall, Pangasinan
- Time Transit Terminal, San Fernando, La Union
- Session Road, Baguio
- Trece Martirez, Laoag

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- Bo. Calicanto, Batangas City

Visayas-Mindanao:
- Limketkai, Cagayan De Oro
- EMSU Bldg., Osmena Blvd., Cebu City
- Victoria Plaza, Davao City
- Ayala Center, Cebu City
- SM City, Cebu City
- J.R. Guillas Bldg., Gen. Maxilom Ave., Cebu City
- Pelaez Arcade, Cagayan De Oro City
- SM City, Iloilo City
- Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City
- Lacson St., Bacolod City
- Indian Emporium, Gonzaga Bldg., Bacolod

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Wahid backers threaten more protest rallies

JAKARTA—Supporters of President Abdurrahman Wahid will react violently if parliament goes ahead with plans to censure him a second time, the leader of a Muslim group linked to Wahid warned yesterday.

"If a second censure is issued the public reaction will be even bigger," Ali Machsan Musa, chair of the East Java branch of the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) mass organization said by telephone.

The NU is the country's largest Muslim group. It was led by Wahid for 15 years before he became president.

"A second censure amounts to political violence by parliament," he added, speaking from Surabaya, the capital of East Java province.

The parliament issued the first censure in February, charging that Wahid was implicated in two multi-million dollar financial scandals.

Soon after, Wahid loyalists in East Java went on days of violent rampages, burning opposition party offices there.

Wahid has denied any wrongdoing but calls for his resignation have mounted since the censure.

Parliament will decide on April 30 whether to pass a second censure motion against the near-blind Muslim teacher, Indonesia's first democratically-elected president.

MPs have said the second censure is inevitable, citing dissatisfaction with Wahid's reply to the first and his failure to improve his performance.

Wahid's supporters have recently set up a 20,000-strong martyr squad to defend him against further attempts to unseat him.

Defense Minister Mohammad Mahfud yesterday warned that the government would take stern action against anyone travelling to Jakarta to intimidate Wahid's opponents.

Wahid's critics accuse him of failing to revive the ailing economy, tame separatist movements in Aceh and Irian Jaya or clean up corruption.

A second censure would almost guarantee impeachment proceedings, which could begin as early as August.

Akbar Tanjung, the parliamentary speaker and one of Wahid's chief critics, said earlier this week that the second censure could be avoided if Wahid agreed to a power-sharing scheme with Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Wahid has so far rejected this on constitutional grounds.

Megawati, whose support is crucial to the president's survival, has maintained a public silence but aides have said she is fed up with Wahid and ready to replace him. *AFP*

Rights group hits Israel, Palestine

TEL AVIV—After an on-scene study in the tense, divided West Bank city of Hebron, a leading international human rights group criticized both Israel and the Palestinians in a report released yesterday.

Human Rights Watch, a New York-based watchdog group, said that Israel is "responsible for the most extensive abuses," but blamed Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement for some gunfire attacks against Israeli civilians.

A Human Rights Watch statement said its researchers spent five weeks in Hebron, divided into Israeli and Palestinian zones because about 450 Jewish settlers live in three enclaves in the middle of the city. After interviewing more than 180 people, they put together an 82-page report.

There are almost daily incidents in Hebron. Palestinians insist that the settlers, among the most militant in the West Bank, must be removed.

"Hebron is a microcosm of the devastating impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on civilians," said Hanny Megally, executive director of the group's Middle East and North Africa division. "Both sides have shown a blatant disregard for the rights of civilians."

The report, titled "Center of the Storm," charged that Israeli soldiers overreact with lethal force to Palestinian violence, opening fire "in situations where demonstrators were unarmed and posed no threat of death or serious injury" to the Israelis.

The report blamed the Palestinians for some of their own casualties, documenting two cases in which Palestinians among demonstrators shot at Israeli troops, drawing return fire that killed or injured unarmed people, including Ahmed Kawasme, 13, who died on Dec. 8.

Since violence erupted in the West Bank and Gaza on Sept. 28, more than 460 people have been killed, most of them Palestinians.

Criticizing Palestinian gunfire at Israeli settlers, Human Rights Watch found that "members of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement are responsible for some of the shooting attacks on the settlements." **AP**

The WORLD

China claims victory, says US 'apologized'

Continental Airlines aircraft to pick up American spy plane crew via Guam

BEIJING—China yesterday claimed victory in the spy plane crisis with the United States and trumpeted a US statement of regret as the apology it had demanded.

A chartered Continental Airlines plane is to fly from Guam to pick up the 24 crew from the US spy plane stranded in China, military sources in Guam yesterday said.

The sources would not give any details of the aircraft or where it would head after leaving China's Hainan island.

CNN reported that the plane would leave around 1600 GMT for the roughly five-and-a-half hour flight to Hainan. It would return to Guam initially then take the crew on to Hawaii.

An editorial in the People's Daily in Beijing said a letter from Washington saying "sorry" over the collision of a US spy plane with a Chinese fighter on April 1 showed China had triumphed over US power politics.

"Our government and people have carried out a staunch struggle against American rule by force and compelled the United States to change its rude and unreasonable hardline attitude and apologize to the Chinese people," said the editorial, to appear in the Communist Party's mouthpiece on Thursday.

The Chinese decision to release the US crew came after US Ambassador Joseph Prueher presented a letter to Tang saying the US was "very sorry" for the loss of the fighter jet pilot in the incident.

The letter also said Washington was "very sorry" the crippled US plane had entered China's airspace without permission, even though it followed international aviation procedures.

Despite China's interpretation of Prueher's letter, the United States has refused to apologize and accept responsibility over the collision that occurred in international airspace off Hainan.

The editorial titled "Patriotic zeal will strengthen the nation's force" underscored Beijing's effort throughout the crisis to manage public opinion.

The People's Daily interpretation of the US statement highlighted the verbal gymnastics the two sides have displayed as they wrestled to find the right wording on the apology issue to resolve the 11-day stand-off.

The English version of the letter Prueher handed to the Chinese foreign ministry used the word "sorry" twice.

The Chinese language version used the word "wanxi," which is closer to meaning "express condolences," for the presumed death of the Chinese pilot in the collision.

But it uses the stronger word "baoqian," closer to the English "sorry" and "regret," for the US plane's unauthorized entry into Chinese air space.

Meanwhile the word used by the People's Daily for "apology" was "zhiqian," stronger than the two words used in the US statement.

But it is weaker than the strongest word for apology in Chinese, "daoqian," which the Chinese government had first demanded over the incident.

In the end, however, the US only expressed regret over the loss of the pilot's life and the plane's entry into China's airspace. *AFP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Man wrongfully sent to death row now dead

TINAMBAC, Camarines Sur—He was the best argument against the death penalty.

Forty years ago, Jose Villaroya was sent to the death row, there wasting 19 years of his life for a crime he never committed.

The boy who wanted to be a lawyer but became a victim of injustice died a very poor and bitter man last week. He was 71.

Villaroya was 17 when he was implicated, along with Manuel Daet and Enrique Arejola, in the murder of couple Felix and Victoria Repuyo of San Vicente, Tinambac, Camarines Sur.

The Repuyos were shot, hacked to death, decapitated, run over by a logging train and burned beyond recognition in the summer of 1959.

Villaroya earned his liberty after his good deeds inside prison qualified him for a presidential pardon. He was 36 years old when released in 1980.

Villaroya was spending his summer vacation in Bagacay, a port barangay in Tinambac town, drinking liquor when he passed out.

He started to have hypertension after his release from prison.

Minor

Villaroya, Daet and Arejola were sentenced to death on the basis of the testimony of two alleged witnesses.

But at the time the Repuyos were killed, Villaroya was actually in one of the cottages that lined the shore of Bagacay, a three-hour ride by boat from San Vicente.

He was then too drunk to stand or even walk.

To finance his legal battle, Villaroya sold some 50 hectares of inherited land. He lost the battle and was sentenced to death.

The National Bureau of Investigation discovered seven years later that the Repuyos were killed by members of the Hukbalahap movement.

Villaroya's death sentence became a celebrated case when two reporters of the Manila Times discovered that he was a minor when the alleged crime was committed.

VILLAROYA

The reporters, working closely with Ercilida Reyes, an instructor in one of the private universities in Manila and a cousin of Villaroya, brought his case to national attention.

Later, Jose Tariman, a captured Huk commander who was also imprisoned at the Bilibid Prison, confessed they killed the Repuyos.

Reyes said Tariman's confession offered new evidence, which the NBI followed up.

No review

She said the NBI went to Tinambac town, 12 hours by train from Manila, to recover a .38-cal. pistol, one of the weapons used in the murder of the Repuyos, hidden in a *balete* tree at the crime scene.

But the new pieces of evidence the NBI gathered were not used to reopen the Repuyo murder case and to prod the Supreme Court to review and overturn the death penalty imposed on Villaroya, Daet and Arejola.

The new pieces of evidence, which included the confession under oath by Tariman, the recovered .38-cal. firearm and proof that Villaroya was a minor when the crime happened, were used only as basis for the commutation of the three innocent convicts to life imprisonment, after three reprieves.

But for another 12 years, the three convicts were allowed to serve their sentences in different penal colonies in the country.

Before his presidential pardon, Villaroya was serving his sentence in the penal colony in Palawan.

After his release from prison, the 36-year old Villaroya married Rosalia, then 35. The couple had two daughters, Alma and Aurora.

Villaroya said the hardest part after he earned his liberty was adjusting to a normal life.

To support his family, Villaroya farmed the remaining nine hectares of his inherited land in San Vicente while his wife opened a small *sari-sari* store that closed in 1990.

The Villaroyas were in their late 60s when they were afflicted with hypertension, an ailment that drained whatever savings they had.

In an interview with the INQUIRER in 1999, Villaroya did not hide his bitterness toward the judicial system that exacted a heavy toll on his life.

He said he lost his opportunity to finish high school, go to college and build a comfortable life.

Even his daughters could not be given the opportunities he wanted them to have.

Poverty forced them to send their eldest daughter, Alma, to a technical school in Naga City while youngest daughter Aurora finished only high school.

Rosalia said her husband often complained to her how the country's justice system deprived him of his life. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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EDWIN BACASMAS

WAY OF THE CROSS

The bare crosses of Barangay Cutud in San Fernando, Pampanga, stand in the middle of a field where men tried in the past—and where they would try again tomorrow—to understand the pain of crucifixion. The crosses serve some purpose, though: as things to climb on when the limited minds of adults start to forget about Lent and the innocent minds of children continue to create dreams.

Farmers seek Sin, GMA help to end 'calvary'

BAY, Laguna–Farmers in the Southern Tagalog region are appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin to end their social, economic and political "calvaries."

They made the call during the "Kalbaryo ng Mamamayan sa Panahon ng Gloria" caravan, which started on Monday from Calamba to Manila and back to Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

About 250 farmers, fishermen, urban poor, church and cause-oriented group members called on the President and the cardinal "to dare stand for the right of the peasantry over land, lakes, and coastal resources above the interests of the Ayalas, Zobels, Roxases, Yulos, Locsins, Cojuangcos, Puyats, Sys, and the landed families who continue to amass wealth and property at the expense of the already impoverished peasants."

"These families, among others," said Eddie Gumanoy, chair of KASAMA-TK/KMP (Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid ng Timog Katagalugan), "have long-standing cases of land disputes with the farmers and fisher folk, including the national minorities—especially the indigenous cultural groups.

"We dare Cardinal Sin as he lashes at immorality in the film industry and (seek) GMA's prompt action to, once and for all, end the immoral act of greed of these rich families," he said.

Gumanoy, one of the organizers of the caravan, lamented that peasants continue to suffer from landlessness; low prices of their agricultural products amid high prices of basic commodities; anti-peasant policies of globalization, the Fisheries Code, Mining Act, Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act, among others.

He also assailed alleged exploitation by landlords of farmers in the form of high rent and usury, plunder of the country's human and natural resources, and the suppression of their freedom to organize and struggle for their rights by the employment of military and police power.

"These hardships represent the seven whiplashes received by Christ under the Roman soldiers (and these are) now (being) suffered by the Filipino peasantry under the ruling elite and the military and the police," Gumanoy said.

The peasants' caravan, which was supported by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Southern Tagalog and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, also challenged the cardinal and Ms Macapagal to defend the peasants against militarization as they struggle for their right to land and economic emancipation.

Gumanoy said documents showed that since Ms Macapagal was catapulted to power by the people on Edsa, among them the thousands of peasants from Southern Tagalog, 51 of them have either died or suffered from various human rights violations by the military and the police.

He said military operations under the notorious Task Force Banahaw had intensified in the provinces of Southern Tagalog.

Local Government Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr. recently denied the allegations made by militant groups that there were such military operations in the countryside.

He said the military and the police were directed to suspend all operations to ensure the success of the peace talks.

"I appeal to these (militant) groups to send their complaints directly to our department so that we can take proper actions accordingly. They should not just send their problems to media," Lina said. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

4 fires in 6 hours rage in Iloilo City

ILOILO CITY—Sirens rang most of Tuesday afternoon in this city after the fire department received four fire alarms in a span of six hours.

The first came in 11:30 a.m. after a grassfire was reported on a vacant lot in Barangay Balantang in Jaro District.

A second grassfire was reported 29 minutes later on another vacant lot in Alta Tierra Village, also in Jaro District.

The third was in Fort San Pedro, which damaged the house of the Molina family.

A bigger fire broke out in the warehouse of the National Food Authority at 5:05 p.m. Damage to property was pegged at P120,000.

Fire investigators said the fire started from the storage bin at the warehouse's center.

Tuesday's four fire incidents came three days after a large fire broke out in West Timawa, Molo District that damaged P3.5-million worth of property.

The fire on April 7 destroyed eight houses and damaged six houses as well as the second and third floors of the College of Nursing building of the Iloilo Doctors College.

F02 Liden Jaena, arson investigator of the Bureau of Fire Protection here, said they expected more fire incidents, especially grassfires, in the city during the summer season.

"We are on red alert and all off-duty personnel will automatically respond to fire alarms," he told the INQUIRER.

Among the most common causes of grassfires, he said, were lighted cigarette butts thrown on vacant lots and burning of garbage. ***Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

AFP chief says PMA not liable for training deaths of cadets

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva yesterday cleared the Philippine Military Academy of liabilities surrounding the death of Cadet Fourth Class Monico de Guzman last week.

"I am satisfied with (the findings) . . . (which) dispel speculations that (De Guzman's case) is another hazing incident," Villanueva told reporters in a press conference here.

But he acknowledged that De Guzman's death prompted the military to undertake "more radical reforms" in order to restrict "physically unfit" applicants from entering the 102-year-old military training school.

De Guzman and batch mate Cadet Fourth Class Mark Caraan, were confined at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center for apparent dehydration and heat stroke, at the end of their third day of mandatory orientation exercises.

Both joined the academy only on April 1, along with some 161 plebes of PMA Class 2005.

De Guzman died of acute respiratory distress syndrome on April 7, while Caraan had been in critical condition due to a kidney disorder that prevented him from being taken to the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center in Quezon City, according to the official report sent to Villanueva.

The report, which validated both the PMA and the BGHMC medical findings, was the product of an independent investigation conducted by the AFP last Sunday, Villanueva explained.

"The AFP inspector general had categorically stated that no hazing occurred (in De Guzman's case). If there is culpability in (De Guzman's) admission, despite his medical condition, they will be (charged)," Villanueva said.

Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr., PMA superintendent, admitted that Class 2005 included some 40 cadets who failed the first physical diagnostics on April 1.

Neither De Guzman nor Caraan were listed among the 40 "unfit" cadets.

"(PMA) needed to fill up its annual quota of 200 cadets, but we only had 82 initially for that batch. The 40 cadets are not technically unfit. But they did not pass the routine (physical diagnostics). We did not consider them failures . . . because they passed their (medical examinations)," he said.

"I decided to let the 40 undergo a special six-week physical development program before stepping into (Fort del Pilar). But only 37 of the 40 passed. The other three could not cope and were not included (in the batch), although their (applications) are still being reconsidered," Carranza explained.

He said he is devising a new "pre-test diagnostic" for applicants who pass both the medical and academic entrance examinations but who are unable to muster heavy physical exercises.

"We want to determine (fitness) beforehand. If they do not pass the physical test, then I will recommend (that the academy should no longer take them in)," Carranza said.

De Guzman's death came less than a month after Cadet Fourth Class Edward Domingo of Camiling, Tarlac, died when he was allegedly hazed by four upper class cadets.

"This (De Guzman's case) could not be hazing because my plebes (and cadets) have been touched by (Domingo's death). The plebes now want to eliminate hazing. They have (imbibed) a different behavior, a different culture of training. They even train without (enduring physical contact)," Carranza said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Transport, rescue agencies brace for 'accident week'

BY JOWEL CANUDAY
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Disaster-response and transportation agencies here have been placed on high alert status as they set up several emergency assistance centers in preparation for possible accidents during the Holy Week.

"Holy Week is an accident week. That is what we have experienced in the past years," said Tranquilino Oljol, chief of the Flight Service Stations of the Air Transportation Office.

Oljol said air, sea and land transportation accidents usually happen during the Holy Week as people rush to visit their home provinces for the Lenten break.

Oljol noted that the ill-fated Air Philippines Flight 541 plane crashed on a Holy Wednesday last year on the Island Garden City of Samal, killing all 131 passengers and crewmen on board.

An overloaded ferry, ML Annahada, also capsized, killing 59 persons on board while cruising some 1.3 nautical miles off the coast of Jolo, Sulu, on April 13, a week before the Air Philippines crash.

Antonio Cloma, deputy regional director for operations of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) here, also said more vehicular accidents happen during Holy Week than at any other time.

Oljol said more people travel on Holy Wednesday and on Easter Sunday as they try to beat the rush for a four-day vacation.

As early as last week, the Department of Transportation and Communications set up emergency assistance centers in seaports, airports and terminals here to address the needs of passengers and relay information on possible accidents.

The centers will also serve as complaints counter for passengers who would face problems while travelling.

The OCD also observed a red alert status and set up telephone hotlines in their center here and in disaster response agencies based in the provinces.

Cloma said municipal disaster-response and rescue organizations were also advised to stay on alert and monitor the situation on the field so they could respond swiftly to emergency situations.

STEP TO NORMALCY

Win trust of evacuees, AFP urged

PAGAGAWAN, Maguindanao—Vice Gov. Guimid Matalam of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao asked the military to step up efforts to win the trust of evacuees in order for the government to succeed in bringing them back to their homes.

Matalam said most of the evacuees who are Muslims still view the military as a tool of oppression.

"This could be one of the psychological effects of the all-out war launched by the Estrada administration and the previous ones. Can we blame the people? Of course, not. We can't also blame the military because they were just doing their job. We can't even blame the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) because they believe they are fighting for a legitimate cause," Matalam said.

He said it would be long before people can recover from the psychological effects of the conflict.

"Unless the military and the government, and all those involved in the conflict would work hand in hand to build a lasting peace, the people would remain restless and uncertain, which could be very bad for their development," he added.

Ugly images

Col. Hermogenes Esperon, chief of the 602nd Brigade based in Carmen, North Cotabato, admitted that the ugly images of the conflict have greatly affected the people.

"That's what we are trying to reverse by launching programs that could help rehabilitate the conflict-affected areas. We are also working very hard to make people understand that the military also does not want war. We all want peace and proof of this is the resumption of the peace process," Esperon, who led the capture of MILF camps in North Cotabato and Maguindanao last year, said.

Among the programs started by the military as part of its confidence-building measure is its current tie-up with the agriculture department.

Farms, not arms

Esperon said under the program, the military will supervise the distribution of planting materials and farm animals to people of communities that were badly affected by the war.

Esperon added that the military is helping put up shelters for people who lost their homes during the war last year.

Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional concerns, assured evacuees during a visit to the refugee camps last week that the all-out war between the military and the MILF would never happen again under the Macapagal administration.

While he was delivering his speech, Esperon offered a reconciliatory hand to the evacuees, most of whom have relatives in the MILF.

"*O*, ceasefire *na tayo*," Esperon said.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Esperon said the military is really trying hard to project itself as a tool for peace.

"We want people to understand that soldiers could also be peace builders and not only meant for war," he said.

Big step

Former Datu Paglas town mayor Ebrahim Paglas said the declaration of a cessation of hostilities by both the government and the MILF is already a big step toward the rehabilitation of areas that suffered most during the war.

"There are a lot of things left to be done but this is already a good start," Paglas said.

The MILF had agreed to return to the negotiating table following what had been described as a secret agreement entered into by the guerrilla and government representatives in Kuala Lumpur.

Details of the agreement were not made public, but ranking government officials gave assurances that the camps that were seized by the military from the MILF during the all-out war would not be returned to the guerrillas as a condition for the resumption of peace talks.

The MILF, a splinter group of the Moro National Liberation Front, has been demanding that a separate Islamic state be set up in Mindanao.

The government, in September 1996, entered into a peace agreement with the MNLF that provides, among others, the expansion of the autonomous region in Mindanao to include more provinces and cities. ***Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

THE EYES of this female evacuee from North Cotabato reflect the plight of displaced civilians whose only fault was to unintentionally always be in the middle of fighting between government forces and Muslim guerrillas.

GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

North Samar bets sign pact for clean polls

BY CYNTHIA A. BORGUETA
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—About 80 candidates in Northern Samar signed a covenant last week for honest, orderly and peaceful elections on May 14.

In the covenant, the candidates promised to "strictly observe and follow" all applicable provisions of the Omnibus Election Code.

In the event of any violation, the candidates vowed to accept whatever penalty the election code provides.

The candidates also pledged not to engage in illegal campaign activities, vote-buying, terrorism and other fraudulent means during the elections "in the spirit of good grace and friendly rivalry."

The covenant, initiated by the Commission on Elections (Comelec), was signed by 80 candidates, most of whom were from the ruling party Lakas-NUCD.

The candidates were vying for different elective positions in Northern Samar—seats in the House of Representatives, governors, board members, mayors and councilors.

The candidates belonging to the Liberal Party, particularly former Northern Samar Rep. Raul Daza, who is now running for governor, failed to attend the launching and signing of the peace covenant.

Maria Liza Torres, Comelec provincial election officer for Northern Samar, explained that the Comelec failed to inform the LP candidates of the covenant signing.

The PNP has identified last month 15 areas of concern in Northern Samar because of intense political rivalry.

These are the towns of Lope de Vega, Lavezares, Catarman, Catubig, Laoang, Las Navas, Silvino Lubos, Allen, San Isidro, Biri, Mondragon, Mapanas, Lapinig, Gamay and San Roque.

PDI writer stands by booing episode

LAOAG CITY—Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson has denied reports he was jeered and heckled during the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan proclamation rally here where he was the guest of honor.

Singson, in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER on Monday, said the crowd in Ilocos Norte did not jeer him while he was delivering his speech, contrary to an INQUIRER report published last week.

"Please correct the report. I was not booed there," Singson told this correspondent on the phone while he was being sought for comment on another issue.

However, this correspondent, who was positioned right in the middle of the crowd, clearly heard the jeering while Singson was delivering his speech on the provincial capitol stage.

The crowd would boo Singson every time other speakers would mention his name.

There were several spectators who applauded Singson but these were drowned out by boos coming from all sections of the crowd.

Milton Pablo, a student who was present during the rally, said Singson was booed at least three times during the rally.

"He was booed when his name was mentioned by both (Ilocos Norte) Gov. (Bongbong) Marcos and Rep. Imee (Marcos) on separate instances. The crowd again booed him when he stood up to (deliver) his speech," Pablo said.

"I even booed him," he added.

Local reporters who covered the event attested that majority of the crowd booed Singson while he was in front of the podium making his speech.

The lukewarm attention that the Ilocos Norte crowd gave Singson was also the subject of reports and commentaries by local broadcast stations the day after the proclamation rally. ***Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Chavit angry at PDI report on KBL rally

"NOT true, *mamatay na ako*," Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said as he denied an INQUIRER report that said he was "booed and jeered" at the grand proclamation rally of the Kilusan ng Bagong Lipunan in Laoag City April 3.

Singson went to the INQUIRER office April 10 to express his disappointment over the report that, he said, was "very unfair."

He swore that the reception he got from the Ilocanos was good. "*Katabi ko pa nga si* (former First Lady) Imelda (Marcos). *Tuwang-tuwa nga sila* (I was even sitting next to Imelda. They were very happy)," he said.

According to the man whose revelation of corruption in the Estrada administration led to the downfall of Joseph Estrada, many people in the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan rally which he attended even wanted to pose with him for pictures.

The INQUIRER (April 6, page A17) reported that Singson was met with heckling and jeers when he stepped to the podium of the provincial capitol's stage during the KBL proclamation rally where he was guest of honor.

A male spectator positioned in front of the stage reportedly booed him while Singson was delivering his speech.

The crowd at the front row also reportedly booed Singson when he thanked the Ilocanos for their prayers during the Senate impeachment trial where he was a star witness.

Singson swore he never heard any booing or jeering before, during or after the rally which started at about 6:30 p.m.

Former congressman Roquito Ablan Jr. also denied the report. In a press release brought to the INQUIRER by Singson, Ablan said the rally went smoothly without the heckling.

"There seems to be a concerted effort to discredit Governor Singson and what he did to rid a country of a corrupt presidency," Ablan said in the statement.

He blamed the "smear campaign" on his political opponent.

Ablan is running again for the same congressional seat against incumbent Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas, one of the congressmen who voted against endorsing the articles of impeachment against Estrada.

"I wouldn't be surprised if he (Fariñas) was found to be supporting what is apparently a smear campaign against Chavit Singson," Ablan added.

Singson, the Lakas-NUCD chair for the Ilocos region, endorsed Ablan during the proclamation rally where he also announced a coalition between the Lakas and the KBL, the party of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

He also announced that his support for the Marcoses, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and his sister Rep. Imee Marcos, was approved by the Macapagal administration.

Ablan said Singson is "very much an 'idolized' personality for "many political and civic leaders in the Ilocos region."

Iloilo farmers barricade road to protest blasting in project

BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Farmers barricaded on Monday a portion of a government road project which, they claimed, destroyed their crops and drove their families away from the farms that they were tilling and that they considered home.

Around 150 protesters held the protest action in Barangay Boloc, Tubungan town, 41 kilometers south of here, and tried to stop the Department of Public Works and Highways from setting off dynamites to loosen boulders in the area.

The protesters, led by the Tubungan United Peasant Alliance (TUPA) and the Federation of Iloilo Farmers Association (FIFA), blocked a section of the 57-kilometer national road project that would link Western Iloilo and Southern Antique.

The DPWH, however, went ahead in blasting the boulders in the area hours after the farmers started their protest. Feeling helpless, the farmers watched the blasting, which lasted for 15 minutes, and then later went home.

Carlos Talaman, TUPA spokesperson and coordinator of the partylist group Bayan Muna, said the project was being implemented without consultations with the 40 families who were affected by the project.

"We are not against the construction of the road but this should not be at the expense of poor farmers who can barely feed their families," he said.

He claimed that the road project damaged farms, agricultural crops and forest trees.

TUPA is demanding an immediate stop to the construction of the road, an assessment of the extent of the damage to crops and an assurance of the safety of the affected families.

The farmers said the DPWH's offer of compensation is not enough to even pay for the damage done to their crops.

The construction of the section that stretches to four kilometers in Tubungan started in 1999 and is set to be finished by September this year, said Rolando Asis of the Project Management Office of the DPWH in Western Visayas.

Asis said the farmers were compensated but admitted that the payment for some of the nearly 40 affected families were delayed due to lack of funds.

He said the blasting posed no danger to residents in the area because the explosives were only used to crack boulders before the gravel cover is placed.

Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor said the provincial government could not intervene in the project because it was funded by the national government.

"We are not part of the decision-making on that project and we were not even consulted," he said.

He said the section of the project in Tubungan town is a digression from the original plan that would link the Iloilo town of Leon and San Remigio in Antique.

The governor said it is the DPWH that should attend to the problems of the farmers and ensure adequate compensation.

3 survive boat sinking; float for 7 hours

BY VICENTE S. LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A passenger vessel rescued yesterday three fishermen, including an 11-year-old boy, who had been floating in the waters off Bato, Leyte, for seven hours.

Commander Godofredo Mandal of the Coast Guard Second District based in Cebu City identified the three as Alejandro Vellejo, 42; Merlo Alfante, 38; and his son Mark Anthony, 11, all from Hilongos, Leyte.

He said the three were fishing in the seas off Bato when their small motorized banca capsized due to a huge wave about 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

Vellejo, Alfante and Mark held on to their floating banca, hoping that they would eventually be rescued by a passing vessel.

Their prayers were answered seven hours later when the crewmembers of the MV Cagayan Princess, which passed by the area, spotted them and the capsized banca about 3 a.m. yesterday.

Mandal said the MV Cagayan Princess was bound for Cebu City coming from Nasipit, Butuan via Maasin City.

The victims were first brought to Cebu City, and were later returned to Hilongos, Leyte.

Strong demand hikes Benguet veggie prices

BAGUIO CITY—Due to the expected increase in demand from visitors here, prices of Benguet vegetables are expected to rise by 10 to 50 percent this week.

Victor Calimlim, chair of the Baguio Market Plaza Cooperative, said the price increase would cover especially vegetables used in cooking chopsuey—cabbage, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, bell pepper and *sayote*.

"We all know that there will be many tourists who will visit Baguio this week, and we anticipate that there will be a voluminous food intake (especially of) vegetables and fish because of the (Catholic practice) of fasting and abstinence," Calimlim said.

He said the vegetables' price increase is based on supply. "*Hinila ng* Manila *iyong* supply *ng* vegetables, *dahil malakas ang* demand, *siguro dahil sa sunud-sunod na mga okasyon like* graduation (Metro Manila's demand had caused the price increase because of various occasions since March like graduation ceremonies)," Calimlim said.

He also noted that vegetable prices have increased by 20-50 percent since last week.

From P25 a kilo, the price of broccoli increased to P55 a kilo; *sayote* from P6 to P15 a kilo; lettuce from P50 to P60 a kilo; carrots from P25 to P35 a kilo; cauliflower from P50 to P70 a kilo; and green pepper from P70 to P90 a kilo.

Calimlim described the price increases as only "normal."

"Prices do not bother consumers because what they care about is the freshness of vegetables," he said. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Illegal recruiter gone after duping 700 job seekers

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—She sponsored an early *pabasa* (reading of the Passion of Christ) in Guagua, Pampanga, for more than 700 job seekers from Pampanga, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Cavite and Batangas.

On April 3, on the day job recruiter Fe Cayanan scheduled the job seekers for a medical test in Mandaluyong City, she was gone.

Her house in Guagua was empty. And so were the promises of jobs in South Korea and Singapore for which she earned at least P25 million from desperate, unemployed men and women.

On Tuesday, nearly 400 victims of suspected illegal job recruiter Cayanan, 65, also known as Fe Punzalan and Fe de Vera, trooped to the regional National Bureau of Investigation here to follow up on their complaints.

Accompanied by leaders of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, the victims also demanded the immediate arrest of Cayanan.

A manhunt and hold-departure orders have been issued against her as well as her husband Atanacio Cayanan and her daughter Jean Enriquez, according to NBI Regional Director Orlando Dizon.

This was the first large-scale case of illegal recruitment in Central Luzon in the last five years, Narciso Peña, NBI agent handling the case, said.

The NBI arrested Angelita Bacani and Angelita Macaspac, two of Cayanan's four suspected accomplices, on April 3, Peña said.

Cayanan feigned kindness on Holy Week to convince her recruits that she was sincere, Bacani and Macaspac, speaking in Kapampangan, told reporters here.

"She exhausted us. We prepared everything for the *pabasa* because she said she wanted the Lord to help her recruits. We did not know she is an illegal recruiter," Bacani said, clearing herself and Macaspac of any involvement in the alleged scam.

Pacita Santiago and Army Maj. Rey Hernandez, Cayanan's two other partners in the alleged crime, were not included in the inquest proceedings the NBI forwarded to the Pampanga prosecutor's office, according to Edgar Tiamzon, spokesperson of the victims.

Dizon said Cayanan and all her associates face arrests.

Cayanan, according to him, collected between P15,000 and P75,000 from each of the job seekers, using contracts of the EEI Corp., the company that built the Metro Rail Transit, to seal her deals with them.

Her brother, a certain Ernesto Punzalan (not the mayor of Mexico, Pampanga), presented himself to job seekers as a representative of the EEI, according to Tiamzon and Peña.

Dizon said NBI operatives were still confirming with EEI officials if they had a hand in the alleged scam.

Peña said the wife of Hernandez had surrendered original copies of signed EEI contracts, including vouchers of payments running to more than P2 million received from October last year until last March.

Initial investigation showed that Cayanan's group had not obtained from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration a license to recruit, Peña said.

Tiamzon said the victims want their money back, including their passports and other documents for overseas employment.

The victims, who were supposed to leave on April 7 for refinery companies in South Korea and Singapore, either obtained money from shark loans or sold their tricycles, houses, carabaos and jewelry so they could pay Cayanan, Tiamzon said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

No Good Friday arrest for Erap, says Sandigan

(From page A1)

"This is because some people in the government are itching (*kiliting-kiliti*) to play up the number 13, which, as we all know, had something to do with almost all the major incidents that have happened to President Estrada," Fortun told radio station dzMM in Filipino.

But Garchitorena, interviewed before government offices closed yesterday at noon, said: "Well, even the President's lawyers sometimes use their imagination."

"The evidence in support of the information (filed by the Ombudsman against Estrada April 4) has not been submitted to us. Therefore, we cannot act," he said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, a prosecutor at Estrada's impeachment trial, said the ex-president's lawyers were being paranoid.

Perez said Fortun and his colleagues should take advantage of the Holy Week to meditate instead of making false accusations against the government.

"A warrant cannot be issued on Good Friday because it is a non-office day," Perez said. "The Erap forces are getting paranoid with the number 13. They should instead relax so they can meditate."

Moreno said Fortun should be ignored. He added: "That's Fortun's style—hallucinating."

He also said it was highly unlikely that an arrest warrant would be issued on Estrada on a Good Friday given the solemnity of the occasion.

Besides, he noted, the 10 days given to the Sandigan's five divisions to examine the criminal cases for probable cause would not have expired by then.

"The trouble with Estrada's lawyers is that they are getting paranoid. I hope Fortun said that simply to gain sympathy because as we all know, Estrada is running out of it already," Moreno said.

Campaigning in Baguio City for the senatorial candidates of Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa (LDP-PnM), Estrada continued to maintain innocence of the charges.

"*Baka magsisi sila dahil wala naman akong kasalanan* (They might be sorry because I did nothing wrong)," he told reporters at the Commander's Cottage in Camp John Hay.

He reiterated that Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's statements on his alleged pocketing of "jueteng" and tobacco tax payoffs were all "concocted fabrications."

Procedural issue

The failure of the Office of the Ombudsman to photocopy and sort out voluminous documentary evidence for each of the anti-graft court's 14 justices became a major procedural issue yesterday at the Sandigan.

A set of the documents, which include transcripts and exhibits from Estrada's impeachment trial, was actually sent to the Sandigan's record section as early as last week's filing of the eight separate cases against Estrada.

The papers are held in 29 folders that require two persons to carry.

Garchitorena said the Ombudsman had asked the Sandigan to photocopy the documents.

"We're not going to do that. They are supposed to file (the papers) with us, and we're not supposed to do the work for them," said the justice, who, as chair of the court's first division, will hear a graft case against Estrada.

"They failed to have (the papers photocopied) because their Xerox machine has reportedly failed," he said. "I got the impression that this was before Wednesday. And they filed (the cases) on Wednesday. I think there was plenty of time between Wednesday and Friday (when the cases were raffled off) to have these things done. Somebody was not watching the checklist."

Garchitorena yesterday issued a resolution "requiring" the Ombudsman to submit the documents not later than April 18.

Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy, who chairs the court's third division that will hear the plunder charge, aired a similar observation regarding the Ombudsman's failure to submit the documents.

The Sandigan is bound by rules to determine probable cause "within 10 days" after the filing of a case.

But as far as Badoy is concerned, that 10-day period "has not even commenced to run" as of yesterday, and will only do so "only upon the receipt" of the court of the documents.

Estrada's lawyers continued building up his defense by submitting another set of motions yesterday at the Sandigan.

In connection with the plunder charge (Criminal Case No. 26558), lawyers Pacifico Agabin and Cleofe Versola filed motions to have the case returned to and reinvestigated by the Ombudsman.

Similar motions were made for Criminal Case No. 26565 (illegal use of alias), which has been raffled to the fifth division chaired by Associate Justice Minita Chico-Nazaria.

Not death

Joker Arroyo, senatorial candidate of the People Power Coalition (PPC), expressed the hope that Estrada would be spared the death penalty should he be convicted of plunder.

"Assuming that the trial is fair and (he is found guilty), I would hope that his penalty would be short of death," Arroyo told the INQUIRER.

He said he "expects and demands" that Estrada, if convicted in a fair trial, be punished with the lesser penalty of life imprisonment.

Plunder of government funds over P50 million is punishable by death under the 1994 law that is opposed by the Catholic Church and many sectors.

Arroyo, who led the prosecution team at Estrada's impeachment trial, said this was not a "softening" of his stand on the charges against the ex-president.

"I have always been against the death penalty. I fought it in the House. I cannot change my position on the death penalty whether it's concerning Erap or anybody else," said Arroyo, who defended victims of human rights violations during the Marcos dictatorship.

"A human rights lawyer can never agree to the death penalty," he said.

Reelectionist Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile (LDP-PnM) expressed confidence in Estrada's ability through his lawyers to defend himself against the charges.

Enrile, himself a lawyer, said he did not see any need for him to give Estrada any legal advice.

"He can take care of himself. It's not for me to say what his lawyers will do," Enrile told reporters in Baguio City.

He also dismissed PPC senatorial candidate Solita Monsod's accusation that Estrada was engaging in dilatory tactics to avoid prosecution.

"That's his lawyers' job—to do everything to protect the rights of their client," Enrile said. "(Monsod) is a not a lawyer."

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya warned that the United States might intervene to save Estrada from arrest and prosecution should the Sandigan fail to order his arrest soon.

"The US government did it to (the late strongman Ferdinand) Marcos at the height of People Power I. It could repeat the same political gesture to any Third World puppet like Estrada," the group said in a statement.

Leaders of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan aired calls for Estrada's immediate arrest.

"Let the people who went to Edsa for People Power II carry out a citizens' arrest of Estrada if the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo hesitates to jail him," said Bayan-Southern Tagalog chair Bani Cambronero.

Alvin Luque, Bayan-Davao City secretary general, challenged the President to "do everything to immediately initiate Estrada's arrest."

Robinson Montalba, chair of the promotion of Church people's Response, said: "Let Estrada stay in jail this Holy Week and for the rest of his life. We have to be sure that he will not be able to escape."

F-5s on standby

In case Estrada attempts to fly out of the country, two fighter planes of the Philippine Air Force will be ready to intercept, if not shoot down, the plane carrying him, said PAF spokesperson Col. Lino Lapinid.

According to Lapinid, F-5s are armed with rockets and guns capable of shooting down foreign military aircraft or commercial aircraft.

The Philippine National Police, on the other hand, are conducting round-the-clock monitoring and surveillance on Estrada and his co-accused.

"We have received intelligence reports that Mr. Estrada and his cohorts are planning to escape prosecution by leaving the country," said PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza.

"For this reason, I have ordered 24-hour surveillance and monitoring of their movements. Policemen are also on alert and posted at all possible exit points throughout the country," Mendoza said. ***With reports from Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Cathy C. Yamsuan; Dona Pazzibugan; Jerome Aning; Juliet L. Javellana; Christine Herrera; Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Jinggoy lying, says NHA chief

(From page A1)

Edgardo Pamintuan, National Housing Authority general manager, called Mayor Estrada a "liar" for claiming that the Macapagal administration had caused the check to bounce.

"Like the father, the son is a liar," Pamintuan told the INQUIRER.

"He should check his facts first. It's either his men gave him the wrong information or he is lying," he said.

Pamintuan said it was impossible for President Macapagal-Arroyo to cause the check to bounce because it was issued on July 7, 2000. At that time Jinggoy's father, Joseph Estrada, was still the President.

In a press conference on Tuesday, Mayor Estrada claimed that San Juan received a Land Bank of the Philippines check (No. 92690) for P100 million on the night of Jan. 16, 2001, the start of the four-day People Power II that ousted his father.

The mayor claimed that Ms Macapagal did not release the money after she assumed power, causing the delay in the construction of 52 medium-rise apartment buildings for squatters from San Juan in Barangay San Lorenzo, Taytay, Rizal.

Only 11 of the 52 planned buildings were constructed.

Six of them remain unfinished and have been idle even before the San Juan local government got the check.

Pamintuan said Estrada could be referring to an entirely different check.

Estrada's check, he said, could not have been issued by the NHA since its number did not follow the NHA series.

In case it was an NHA check, he said it could have been issued in 1997 or much earlier.

He gave the INQUIRER a photocopy of the "real" Land Bank check (No. 0000280676) the NHA issued to San Juan on July 7, 2000.

It showed the signature of former NHA general manager Angelo Leynes and treasurer Zenaida Reyes.

A photocopy of the certification and receipt (dated July 11) from the San Juan local government showed that the check was received by Ramonette de la Cruz, who had been sent by San Juan treasurer Belen Martinez.

A copy of the NHA statement of account from the Land Bank showed that the money was transferred from the NHA account to San Juan's account. The statement covered June 30-July 31, 2000.

"This proves that the P100 million was debited from our account and credited to the San Juan account," Pamintuan said.

The amount had a Special Allotment Release Order (Saro) from the Department of Budget dated June 19, 2000. The Saro was signed by then Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno.

"If the check has a Saro and it has already been released, it's impossible for it to bounce," Pamintuan said.

The P100 million in question was allocated for the San Juan resettlement project in the General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2000, according to the NHA chief.

P468-million project

Pamintuan said the money was released through the NHA to help finance the construction of 52 medium-rise buildings worth P468 million. The tenements were designed to have 2,028 rooms with a uniform floor area of 27.9 square meters each.

Pamintuan said the NHA was supposed to facilitate the release of P268 million of the total amount, while the remaining P200 was supposed to come from the Presidential Social Fund.

Of the P268 million, P100 million was initially released, according to Pamintuan.

He disclosed that the approval of the resettlement project did not follow government protocol because its proponent, Mayor Estrada, was the son of the then President.

"Under Estrada, everything was possible," Pamintuan said.

Under "normal" circumstances, a local government project should start with a city or municipal council resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into a memorandum of agreement with another party, he said.

Shortcuts

"The entire procedure, from the resolution to the signing of agreement and other steps, would normally take at least a month," he said.

The San Juan resettlement project, however, started with Diokno writing a memorandum dated May 31, 2000, asking the then President to release P100 million for the project.

Estrada approved the request 11 days later, a copy of the memorandum showed. Eight days later, the Saro was released.

On June 30, 2000, the San Juan local government signed a memorandum of agreement with the NHA for the construction of the medium-rise apartment buildings.

It was only 10 days later that the San Juan local government approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Estrada to enter into such an agreement.

"What happened was the reverse of the actual procedures and it should not have happened," Pamintuan said.

The unfinished buildings have no windows, doors, roofs, toilets and electrical systems. They are being occupied by at least 16 families that evacuated from Sitio Arienda last December.

Residents in the area draw water from deep wells. An initial investigation by the NHA showed the water was not potable because of "saltwater intrusion," said Mariano Raner III of the NHA Housing Technology and Project Development Department.

Mayor Estrada expressed fear that the six tenements for squatters at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Resettlement would not be completed in the immediate future due to lack of funding.

He told the INQUIRER that the San Juan local government had yet to find groups willing to shell out cash for the completion of the housing project.

"Obviously, we have to rely on our own resources because we can no longer expect any support from the present administration," the mayor said.

Erap City protest

At another resettlement project of the Estrada administration, this time at the Kasiglahan Village 1 in Erap City, Rodriguez, Rizal, urban poor families denounced the "subhuman living conditions" in the housing project.

Members of the Urban Poor Associates, surrounded by 30 mock tombstones, celebrated Mass in memory of the local residents who died in the area.

Vangie Pangilinan, head of the Kasiglahan Village 1 Action Group, said Erap City was chosen as the venue of the "Kalbaryo ng Maralitang Tagalunsod" to dramatize the situation of the urban poor.

"Erap City is a contemporary Calvary. Our sufferings after being dislocated in Metro Manila can be compared to the sufferings of Christ on his way to Mount Calvary, where he was crucified and died," Pangilinan said.

She said the deaths of relocated people, including children, in the area were caused mainly by the absence of health services.

"There is no hospital or at least a doctor to give immediate treatment to the sick and the dying. Only a midwife stays in a so-called health center which does not even provide medicine," Pangilinan said.

She also complained that there was no regular source of electricity in the relocation site and the water was not potable.

"The housing units are built with substandard materials and the classrooms for the schoolchildren have yet to be completed," she said.

On top of these complaints, she cited the lack of job opportunities for the relocated people.

Kasiglahan Village is part of the 2,500-hectare Erap City, which was touted by the Home Insurance Guarantee Corp. as the "first ever well-planned socialized housing project undertaken in the country."

Tired priests . . .

(From page A1)

ference of the Philippines, where the influential leaders seek the physical comfort that he provides.

By virtue of his work, the blind masseur is privileged to hear private sermons and intimate thoughts on life from the men of God. He says he derives inspiration from the humanity of highly esteemed religious leaders, who are often perceived by the public as uncomfortably righteous.

"Priests and bishops are just like us," Eje tells the INQUIRER during a visit at his house in Project 4, Quezon City. "They get tired, they have needs, and they look for rest also. That's why they take pleasure in little things like a massage."

Tonight, priests will be busy with the traditional washing of the feet. They will also perform the last Eucharistic celebrations, as there will be no Mass on Good Friday and Black Saturday.

Luxury

Aside from the annual retreat of priests in July, Eje says the days before Lent are among the busiest for him. In turn, the Lenten season is the busiest time for the parish clergymen, who like to have their massage before buckling down to work.

"A massage is a luxury for them," Eje says. "After the massage, they usually just have a good-natured chat with you and a hearty meal afterwards.

"Priests are different when you see them before the altar, saying Mass, and when you see them up close and personal, for a massage. They're ordinary people, too," adds Eje's wife Roselle, herself a blind masseuse serving women clients, including some politicians.

Eje's career in reflexology and therapy started in 1995, as soon as he graduated from the National Vocational and Rehabilitation Center in Project 4.

He, along with other blind people who wanted to make something of themselves, was trained there in massage.

One of his first regular clients was Fr. Emmanuel Sare, parish priest of the Miraculous Medal in the community where the Ejes go to church.

The priest stood as sponsor when the couple married in 1996. It was also he who took Eje to the Bahay Pari of the San Carlos Seminary in Guadalupe, Makati, to introduce the masseur to other priests.

That was in July 1996—a propitious opportunity because it was retreat time at the Bahay Pari for parish priests all over the country.

Since then, Eje has served as unofficial masseur of the Catholic clergy.

"Sometimes, they even call me 'Reverend,'" Eje says of his religious clients, many of whom have become his friends and confidantes.

"I have sort of captured the priests as a permanent market for my massage services, because even when they return to the provinces, they call and inform me when they're coming back to Manila so I can schedule them for a massage," he adds.

Faith

Being in the company of the religious has also reinforced Eje's faith in the Lord, whom he had earlier blamed for his disability.

Eje went blind in 1987 when he was 22. His eyes had suffered badly from daily exposure to 500 watts of light from the printing machines that he operated at the People's Courier, a Manila-based printing press.

His blindness forced him to quit his job and return to his parents in Batangas. Together, they sought the help of every eye expert they knew—an effort that took its toll on the family coffers and his parents' health.

When the doctors relayed only bad news, Eje went to quack doctors, traveling to various provinces like Mindoro and Cavite. After visiting more than 25 *albularyos*, Eje and his parents gave up.

"That's the hardest part—to admit that you are truly disabled, especially when it comes at a time in your life when you're young and supposed to be having fun with your friends instead of groping your way around," Eje says.

It was after his parents' death that Eje decided that he would not spend his life moping.

He returned to Manila with a friend and enrolled at the rehabilitation center. He had no regrets for it was there that he found his lifetime love, Roselle, and his ticket to survival: massage training.

At the San Carlos Seminary, Eje also met Reyes, the running priest, who encouraged him to join his team in running for social causes.

In 1996, Eje run with Reyes from Subic to UP Diliman, where they were met by a cheering crowd.

Recently, he also accompanied Reyes in a shorter run in the metropolis.

Love

"I have always loved sports, but I thought I could not do it anymore when I became blind," Eje says. "That changed because I started to run with Father Robert (and an escort), and eventually played other games, too."

Eje was part of the team of blind men sent to the paralympics in Kuala Lumpur last year. He played goal ball, the equivalent of basketball, and volleyball.

The team lost, but Eje's joy and pride could not be doused.

"I am happy that I can do all these things," he says. "There are some people who choose to waste their lives just because they're disabled. My wife and I are not like that."

He adds: "There's really no reason for people to pity us. We enjoy our work and we believe that the Lord will never abandon us."

Gloria hit for 'glorifying' Favali killer

(From page A1)

charge Manero, who surrendered Monday after escaping from a provincial jail last month, with evading the service of his sentence.

Jimenez said the VACC was disheartened because the meeting may be perceived as an expression of the administration's "seemingly soft-hearted attitude" toward criminals.

The VACC chair said his group was disheartened because the meeting may be perceived as an expression of the administration's "seemingly soft-hearted attitude" toward criminals.

"It is disgusting enough that the Malacañang people and the media seemed to be giving so much attention to the unrepentant priest-eating criminal," he said. Reports that Manero ate bits of the brain of Fr. Tullio Favali after murdering him on April 11, 1985 have never been confirmed.

"But for the Palace officials to have allowed Madame President to meet face to face with a highly dangerous criminal who was not even handcuffed is beyond my comprehension," Jimenez added.

Manero was presented to Ms Macapagal in Zamboanga City by Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza. The convict was not allowed to speak to the President about his case.

"Why expose her to unnecessary danger just to accommodate a hardcore criminal who loves basking in the limelight?" Jimenez wanted to know.

Maximum security

Manero was finally locked up in the Davao Prison and Penal Farm in Davao del Norte on Tuesday, after spending 17 days as a fugitive.

He was detained in Dormitory A of the Reception and Diagnostic Center (RDC) of the DPPF, where he will stay for about 60 days "as a matter of procedure for newly committed inmates," according to prison superintendent Alfredo Gozon.

Gozon said prison officials had not decided whether to jail Manero in the maximum-security compound of the predominantly medium-minimum security penal institution. Gozon said that the only legal basis for keeping Manero at the DPPF was his life sentence for the 1985 murder of Favali, an Italian missionary.

Gozon said that when Manero was transferred from the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa to the DPPF in 1991, he was already a "minimum-security inmate."

A minimum-security prisoner at the DPPF is not locked up in the dormitories for inmates, and is allowed to roam about the premises and even set up temporary private shelter within the 95-hectare central colony compound.

Minimum-security inmates are even allowed to work at the banana plantations surrounding the colony provided they return to the penal farm by 4:30 p.m., Gozon said.

'No Hannibal'

But on April 10, when Manero was recommitted to the penal farm, Ricardo Macala, Bureau of Corrections chief, instructed Gozon to place Manero under "maximum security," and to bar press interviews with the convict unless cleared by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Gozon said that in compliance with the order and as a matter of procedure for newly committed inmates, Manero was being held at the RDC, a maximum-security compound.

But Gozon said officials would wait for new instructions from higher authorities on where to detain Manero after the maximum 60-day stay in the RDC.

Gozon said he did not think Manero is a dangerous man, especially since he is back behind bars.

"Manero is no Hannibal," Gozon said, referring to the fictional Hannibal Lecter of "The Silence of the Lambs," who made feasts of his victims. In the recent film "Hannibal," the title character ate pieces of a victim's brain.

"I think he (Manero) has respect for authority, *sa totoo lang* (if truth be told)," Gozon said.

Confident

Aside from serving several sentences related to the Favali murder, Manero is also facing charges of kidnapping and murder of brothers Ali and Mambawatan Mamalumpong in 1977. The case is filed in the regional trial court in Sarangani, around four hours away by car from the penal farm.

Manero's Manila-based lawyer, Ruben Platon, said his client was confident the case would be dismissed because the prosecution has not been able to produce witnesses.

The prosecution has presented two witnesses, the sister of the victims, who recanted her testimony last year, and another witness who was presented only once and has not been cross-examined.

Manero had earlier said he escaped from the Sarangani jail because the Mamalumpong case had been postponed 15 times and had not been dismissed.

Platon said the only case that might keep Manero in jail is if charges are filed against him for escaping from the Sarangani Provincial Jail on March 22.

Penalties

Manero and seven other members of the Civilian Home Defense Force were sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Favali and meted out another penalty for the attempted murder of a civilian.

Manero was meted out an additional penalty for setting Favali's motorcycle on fire.

He was also convicted for evasion of service of sentence for having escaped from prison in May 1992.

Gozon said Manero's life sentence was commuted to 12 years by then President Fidel V. Ramos in 1998. He said Manero should have been released from prison on parole since he had already served the 12 years.

Documents show, however, that Manero's four sentences were commuted in February 1998 to 24 years with a review on the 19th year.

The commutation was not made public until February 2000 when it was discovered that Manero was one of a large number of convicts pardoned conditionally by then President Joseph Estrada on Dec. 16, 1999.

Prison records show Manero had by then served "17 years, 11 months and 16 days, including good conduct time allowances."

Pedaled off

Three of Manero's co-accused in the Favali killing who are detained at the penal farm said they hoped the public reaction generated by Manero's escape would move government officials to take a second look at their cases.

"We hope that government will start looking into our case this time," Rudy Lines said. Rudy's brother, Severino, is also in this penal farm.

Rogelio Bedano said that if they were given a chance to talk to Manero, their commander in the defunct CHDF, they would tell him not to escape anymore.

Bedano and the Lines brothers have been granted minimum-security status for good behavior and are allowed to work on a nearby banana plantation.

When the Huey helicopter bringing Manero landed here Tuesday, Lines and Bedano did not join the crowd of other inmates who wanted to catch a glimpse of Manero.

Instead, the three jumped on their bikes and pedaled away.

Income tax filing . . .

(From page A1)

filing of income tax returns to Monday, April 16, since the regular deadline, April 15, falls on Sunday.

The President said with the extension of the deadline, the BIR can accommodate more income tax filers and avert the rush and congestion at the BIR offices during the last day of filing of income tax returns.

"I urge our countrymen to pay their correct taxes at the proper time," the President said in her statement.

I'm 99.9% sure of not playing again–Jordan

Pennisi, Torion to play in June

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

RECOVERING from a career-threatening injury, Batang Red Bull's Mick Pennisi and Jimwell Torion watched from the sidelines, absorbing the frustration of losing the chance at gaining the twice-to-beat advantage in the PBA All-Filipino series.

Their presence would have made a difference, that's for sure, but winning is not everything insofar as management is concerned.

"The most important thing," said team manager Tony Chua, "is that both Pennisi and Torion recover completely and, God willing, for both players to play again in the next conference which starts on June 3."

Pennisi in particular has been exceedingly eager to see action again and beef up the Thunder's floundering quarterfinal bid, but Batang Red Bull management refused the courageous offer, saying they would not gamble with their players' physical well-being even if such gesture would turn the tide in the team's favor.

Peppery Torion, the 5-foot-9 point guard from Argao, Cebu, has been prematurely affected by a painful dislocated shoulder late last year and eventual surgery early this January, while tall and deadly Pennisi, a 24-year-old Fil-Am, hurt his foot halfway through the All-Filipino. A 6-foot-9 defensive star, Pennisi is also adept at the 3 position because he can shoot the 3-point shots. He has played for Eastern Michigan University and the lesser known Continental Basketball Association league in the United States.

On record, Pennisi and Torion are the vital cog in Red Bull's remarkable turnaround, which saw the Thunder emerging from nowhere and marching merrily to third place in the Philippine Basketball Association's season-ending Governors' Cup last year. Of course, coach Yeng Guiao did a yeoman's job in seeing the successful buildup program through for the George Chua franchise.

Still, Yeng Guiao has some misgivings about the team's chances in the league. A former commissioner of the Philippine Basketball League, Yeng Guiao said in an interview: "We look forward to a fruitful campaign in the PBA, but I know this is not going to be easy. Our lineup is badly depleted and the team is still lacking in experience."

* * *

SPORTS TRIVIA. The exodus of the country's top players to the professional Philippine Basketball Association in 1975 greatly weakened the amateur Basketball Association of the Philippines. Thus, in the 1978 World Basketball Championship here, the nationals faced the daunting task of duplicating the third-place finish of their elders in the 1954 World Basketball Championship in Rio de Janeiro. To assemble the strongest team possible, a proposal to include PBA players to the national team almost became a reality, but, in the end, the BAP decided to junk the idea.

Coach Nic Jorge, former scoring machine of the University of the Philippiens, initially tapped 30 players to undergo the tryouts. After a thorough screening, Jorge, assisted by veteran Skip Agcaoili and upcoming Nemie Villegas, dropped 15 from the roster, retaining the other half to compose the Philippine team. For the first time in an international meet, the Philippine was not fielding its seasoned internationalists because it was composed mostly of new college graduates.

WASHINGTON—Once again, Michael Jordan downplayed the notion that he's planning a comeback. Once again, he left the door one-tenth of a percentage point open that it just might happen.

Responding to comments made by fellow Washington Wizards owner Abe Pollin, the most authoritative source to date to give credence to the Jordan comeback rumors, the five-time NBA Most Valuable Player told The Washington Post that his return is still very unlikely.

"I haven't wavered one bit from what I've been saying," Jordan said in Wednesday's edition of the paper. "If I had to answer today, I'm 99.9 percent sure I won't play again.

"I'm not going to come back as a showpiece. I wouldn't even think about it unless I thought I could maintain the level of play I had when I left. I'd only come back doing everything I always did. And I'm nowhere near that, nowhere close to that. I haven't played in three years."

Jordan has already denied the comeback rumors several times over the past two months, but his latest statement will do little to stop the speculation. Even some of his friends, such as golfing buddy and Pittsburgh Penguins star Mario Lemieux, have not believed him.

Lemieux, speaking Tuesday after a Penguins practice, said he had talked to Jordan in the last 10 days and made it sound like His Airness was all but ready for a comeback.

"He's going to give it a shot and he's working very hard," Lemieux said. "He's taking his time, he's taking a few months to get ready, but I'm sure when he gets back, he'll be the best player again."

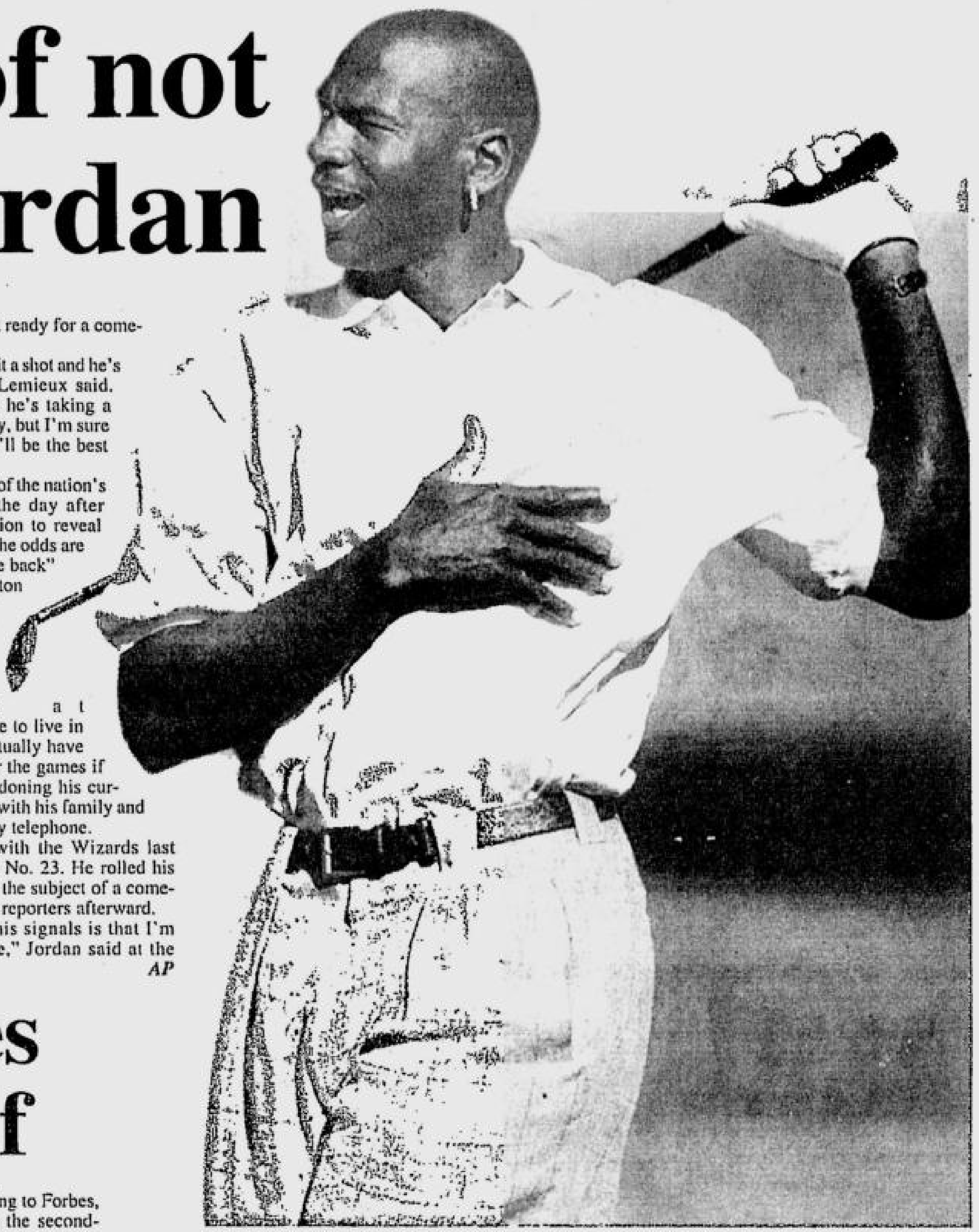
Jordan was the talk of the nation's capital on Tuesday, the day after Pollin went on television to reveal his "gut feeling" that "the odds are that he's going to come back" and play for Washington next season.

The factors working against a Jordan comeback are his age _ it's doubtful he can still dominate the game at 38 _ and his preference to live in Chicago. He would actually have to start showing up for the games if he were playing, abandoning his current routine of staying with his family and running the Wizards by telephone.

Jordan practiced with the Wizards last week, wearing his old No. 23. He rolled his eyes in disbelief when the subject of a comeback was broached by reporters afterward.

"The only thing this signals is that I'm getting some exercise," Jordan said at the time.

AP



JORDAN: "Im getting some exercise." FILE PHOTO

Tiger becomes Jordan of golf

WOODS

WASHINGTON— Tiger Woods, who is on his way to becoming one of golf's legends, is having an economic impact not seen by a sports figure since the heyday of Michael Jordan.

Woods pocketed a cool million dollars with his Masters victory Sunday, which made him the first golfer to hold all four Majors—Masters, US Open, British Open and PGA Championship — at the same time.

But his earnings on the golf course are just a fraction of what he will gain through endorsements and promotions, and analysts say Woods is doing for golf what Jordan did for professional basketball.

"So far as I can see, nobody is the Tiger Woods category," said Jerry Hausman, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist who has studied the economic impact of sports stars.

Hausman, whose research was used as the basis for Fortune magazine's estimate of Jordan's $10 billion economic impact, said Woods is not quite yet at the same level as the NBA legend, but may very well reach that plateau.

"In terms of the economy, Jordan had a much bigger effect, but Tiger Woods is only 25," said Hausman. "In five years time he could be just as big."

Forbes magazine recently estimated Woods' 2000 earnings at $53 million, including $9 million from golf. And it said he could earn $100 million from product endorsements from Nike alone in the coming years.

Some financial analysts say that Woods could soon be worth more than one billion dollars.

According to Forbes, Woods was the second-highest paid sports figure last year behind Formula One driver Michael Schumacher, who earned $59 million.

But the magazine gave Woods a "power rank" among celebrities of number two, behind only Tom Cruise — a ranking that takes into account earnings, press coverage, magazine covers and Web hits.

Meanwhile, Woods' charge to the Masters championship on Sunday generated a 13.0 rating and 29 audience share for CBS, the second highest final-round rating ever for the tournament.

An estimated 40.6 million viewers, second most ever, watched all or part of the final round as Woods won his fourth consecutive major title, holding off challenges from David Duval and Phil Mickelson. The record of 43 million viewers was set in 1997 when Woods won the Masters for the first time.

In a related development, the world's top golfers are poised to earn a whopping pay rise worth hundreds of millions of dollars following Woods' historic US Masters victory, it was reported in London Tuesday.

The Daily Mail said golfers could earn a $300-million increase in pay when fresh negotiations for television rights to the US Tour begin next month.

The previous four-year deal was worth $500 million.

But with the Woods phenomenon driving golf ratings up to unprecedented heights US Tour commissioner Tim Finchem is now planning to open the bidding for a new deal at $800 million, the paper reported.

AP/AFP

Heat cool off Allen, 76ers; Lakers win as Kobe returns

MIAMI—Tim Hardaway scored from 22 feet (6.6 meters) with 5.6 seconds left as the Miami Heat beat the Philadelphia 76ers 83-81 in the NBA Tuesday night despite Allen Iverson's 41 points.

Aaron McKie was short on a 25-foot (7.5-meter) attempt for Philadelphia as time ran out.

Miami's Alonzo Mourning had 20 points and 16 rebounds, both season-highs, in just 26 minutes. The Heat won their fourth game in a row and improved to 5-3 since Mourning returned after missing the first 69 games because of a kidney ailment.

Lakers 106, Suns 80

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant made a triumphant return from a four-game absence with 20 points, four assists and six steals.

Shaquille O'Neal had 32 points and 13 rebounds as the Lakers won their fifth straight and handed the Suns just their third loss in 12 games.

Bryant, the NBA's third-leading scorer, had missed nine of his team's 10 games since spraining his left ankle in the final minute of a 107-100 loss March 21 at Milwaukee.

Cavaliers 101, Magic 78

In Cleveland, Andre Miller's 10 points and eight assists in the first quarter set the tone as the Cavaliers had a rare easy night and snapped a seven-game losing streak.

For one of the few times this season, almost everything went right for the Cavs. They shot well, made free throws (34-37), opened a 35-point lead in the second quarter and scored a season-high 69 points in the first half.

Bucks 105, Bulls 84

In Milwaukee, Scott Williams scored a career-high 24 points, helping the suddenly shorthanded Bucks to their first season sweep of Chicago.

By game's end, however, the Bucks were without leading scorer Glenn Robinson (eye abrasion) and top reserve Tim Thomas (dislocated shoulder).

The Bucks need one more victory or a loss by Toronto to clinch their first Central Division title since 1985-86.

Complete results:

Cleveland 101, Orlando 78; Milwaukee 105, Chicago 84; Miami 83, Philadelphia 81; Denver 100, Houston 99; San Antonio 91, Dallas 79; Minnesota 104, Vancouver 91; Portland 116, Golden State 88; L.A. Lakers 106, Phoenix 80; Sacramento 116, L.A. Clippers 109, OT.

AP

Martina slams Richard Williams

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida —Martina Navratilova was never one to mince words when she was the most dominant women's tennis player from the mid-1970s through the mid-'90s. And little seems to have changed.

Preparing for doubles in this week's Bausch and Lomb Championships, Navratilova met with the media on Tuesday. She was reserved in most of her comments until asked about the behavior of Richard Williams, father of Venus and Serena Williams, who are currently ranked No. 2 and No. 6, respectively.

Navratilova, a 167-time winner on the WTA Tour, expressed her disapproval of the elder Williams' victory dance on the court following Venus' win over Lindsay Davenport in last year's U.S. Open final.

"If Richard Williams had danced in front of me after I had lost to one of his daughters in a match, I probably would have hit him," she said, laughing, but with conviction. "What he did at the U.S. Open was absolutely horrible, and has no place in sports or on the tennis courts. "But it's difficult for the daughters to control the father.

"That being said, Richard has done a great job with both girls bringing them to the level that they're at now, which is amazing. But, he needs to put a lid on it.

"And there's no racism, as far as I know. In fact, I think, if anything, people have been treating them with kid gloves because they are African-American.

Meanwhile, in Florida, the brother of Venus and Serena Williams was arrested on charges he tried to strangle his wife.

Richard Williams III was charged with domestic battery and released on his own recognizance Tuesday after a night in jail, police said.

A judge ordered the 35-year-old Williams to stay away from his wife and children, ages 7 and 11. An April 24 hearing was set.

In Portugal, top-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero advanced into the second round of the Estoril Open with a 6-3, 7-6 (2) win Tuesday over unseeded Harel Levy.

Ferrero, one of the heroes of Spanish team that won the Davis Cup in December, overcame the Israeli in 81 minutes.

AP/AFP

Buenavista, Martes rule Baguio 10K race

SYDNEY Olympian Eduardo Buenavista proved too classy for the field when he ruled the first leg of the Adidas Pharmaton 10K Running Circuit held in Baguio City last Palm Sunday.

The 23-year-old General Santos City native bolted from the starting line at gunbark and never looked back as he negotiated the tough uphill and downhill route to clock 35 minutes and seven seconds.

Adidas King of the Road–Hong Kong runner-up Daud Mama was second in 38:01, while Baguio bet Castro Cudli–wound up third in 38:28.

In the distaff side, Hong Kong Standard Chartered Marathon seventh placer and women national marathon record holder Cristabel Martes likewise routed her rivals to clinch the title in 42:16, while rising star Flordeliza Cachero and Jona Atienza settled for second and third in 45:22 and 48:13, respectively.

Race director Raffy Uytiepo together with Adidas marketing and Sales director Sonny Nebres, Adidas product manager Eric de Mesa, Pharmaton's division manager Rudy Ikalina, product manager Cathy Te and events coordinator Jake Labiran handed out the cash prizes, trophies, medals, and other awards to the winners.

Over 500 runners participated in the race fired off by Summer in Baguio 2001 chair Vice Mayor Danny Fariñas. The next leg will be held in Cebu City on June 3.

The Slipper fits

WHAT CAN I SAY

Bebo Quiros

THE Slipper certainly fits the first lady of Australian racing, Miss Gai Waterhouse. On Saturday, the 7th of April 2001, this year's edition of the Sydney Turf Club's premier race, the Golden Slipper, was won in a trifecta by Waterhouse-trained horses. Gai definitely had the last laugh when the John Singleton-owned filly, Ha Ha, solidly backed at 14-1, stormed home in front after hitting the straight to beat the Ron Duccify-owned favorite, Excellerator (4-1) and the Gooree Stud second-stringer, Red Hannigan (21-1) by a clear 1 1/2 lengths.

It was a race of many firsts. Gai Waterhouse won her first Slipper. In doing so, she became the first lady trainer to win. She is also the first trainer ever to win the trifecta in the big race. John Singleton became the first to repeat as owner of the Slipper winner, having won the 2000 edition with Belle du Jour. Ha Ha provided the out-of-flavor big race jockey Jim Cassidy with his first Slipper victory, the only big race he hasn't won. Doubly sweet for Jim as he was taken off the 95 winner, Flying Spur, while he was being investigated for alleged race fixing.

Immediately after the race, in a display of human emotion unparalleled in Rosehill's history, John Singleton bowled over his wife, Julie and hugged her flat on the ground in the saddling enclosure in front of thousands of fans and millions of televiewers. After which, he promptly declared the bars in the public area open to anyone who wanted a Tooheys. For the second straight year, the Australian beer company had to replenish the taps.

As for Gai, it was a great afternoon. She had a group I double, winning the Ansett Stakes (GI), run forty-five minutes before the Slipper, with the Gooree Stud-homebred Tempest Morn. The Thunder Gulch filly, true to her name, had to survive a race protest from Brian York, the rider of the runner up, Rose Archway. The Ansett Stakes is a 2000 meter lead-up to the AJC Oaks to be held on Saturday, 21 April 2001.

After his filly's victory, Kuya Danding Cojuangco had this to say. "I first came here (to Australia) to buy a horse in 1959. I've been involved in Australian racing for a long time. The best thing about Australia is that people are so nice and friendly. Racing too, is enjoyed by nearly everybody which makes it easy all round." On Gai Waterhouse he said, "She is top bracket. One of, if not the best, trainers in this country." Indeed, Gai Waterhouse and Gooree Stud have a real live prospect for the Oaks. We will be there to cheer them on.

Comparisons are odious

In an effort to drum up interest for this year's PCSO First Gentleman's Cup to be held on 29 April 2001, fellow sportswriters have come up with a two-horse rivalry between Silver Story, last year's top two-year-old and Wind Blown, last year's top three-year-old. Some have even suggested a rivalry of Horse-of-the-year Awardees. Silver Story is the year 2000 Horse-of-the-Year for the Philippine Sportswriters Association (Psa) and the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization (Philtobo) while Wind Blown was named Horse-of-the-Year by the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom). It is not for us to comment on the legitimacy of each of their choices as legends can always be created in one's own mind.

However, comparisons are indeed odious. Fair and Square, who was a four-year-old island-born when he won his Triple Crown against honest-to-goodness locally-bred three-year-olds, was no less a champion when he lost to Skywalker at the tailend of an illustrious career. Champion Skywalker, a Triple Crown winner in his own right, would lose twice to Headmaster, champion handicap horse, who in turn could never beat Fair and Square. So who was better? Fair and Square or Skywalker? Skip a generation. Add Timemaster to the mix. Skip two generations and one would have to include Real Top. It is useless to compare. Comparisons can only be made at the finish line. Who knows? Some longshot might just win the race.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Qualifying—San Marino Grand Prix on Saturday at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: Clutch City—The Houston Rockets 1993-94 Championship at 7:30 p.m. (r – Saturday at 5:30 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA - Philadelphia 76ers vs Orlando Magic tomorrow at 8 a.m. (r- 9 p.m. and Saturday at 4 p.m.) on Star Sports, Houston Rockets vs Portland Trailblazers on Saturday at 10 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA Inside Stuff tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. (r – Saturday at 6:30 p.m.) on Star

Pure Pistons tomorrow at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Harlem Globetrotters vs NABC Collegiate All-Stars tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. on ESPN

Double Clutch -The Houston Rockets 2nd Championship tomorrow at 8 p.m. on ESPN

NBA Action on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. (r- 7:30 p.m.) on ESPN

GOLF: LPGA Nabisco Championship, Final Round at 4 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Senior PGA Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, Final Round at 8 a.m. (r), Highlights at 11:30 p.m. (r- tomorrow at 7 a.m.) on Star Sports

Augusta Masters 2001, Day Three at 12:30 p.m. (r) Final Day tomorrow at 12:30 p.m. (r), Review tomorrow at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA City of Hope Classic, First Round tomorrow at 8:30 p.m., Second Round on Saturday at 4 p.m. on ESPN

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▣ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Chess summer classes listing on

ENROLLMENT is now going on for the next special summer chess classes of Milo Checkmate clinic slated April 16-25 at six different venues in Metro Manila and provinces. The clinic in Valenzuela City and Meycauayan will start on April 18-29 from 8 a.m-12nn and 1-5 p.m. respectively. For details, please call the Metropolitan Chess Club at 826-8560.

Baguio netter gains semis

BAGUIO CITY—Local pride Jun Cortez ousted Ramier Ortega, 6-1, 6-1, and Jeff Villanueva, 6-0, 6-0, to book a semifinal seat in the boys' 16-under division Tuesday in the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop here at the Burnham Park claycourts. Cortez stayed on course for a double championship appearance following a 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 victory past Denny Reyes of San Pablo City in the boys' 18-under bracket.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo confers the Sikatuna Award on Samaranch. JOAN BONDOC

IOC head cites gov't importance to sports

BY JUNE NAVARRO

SPORTS and politics do mix.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, yesterday presented this ironic reality in the international sporting scene contrary to the local belief that sports and politics are two entirely different arenas.

In a breakfast gathering yesterday at the Westin Philippine Plaza, the 81-year-old Samaranch stressed the importance of government corroboration in sports, underscoring the fact that sports can't stand alone without government support.

"Sometimes people say that sports is sports and politics is politics. One has nothing to do with the other," Samaranch told local sports officials and some members of the media. "But the reality is sports need the government. To say that sports don't have to corroborate with the government is but a myth."

Samaranch emphasized the government's respect for the autonomy enjoyed by each national Olympic committee (NOC) belonging to the more than 200 member-countries of the IOC as the most gratifying part of the alliance.

As an example, Samaranch noted the corroboration between sports and government in the Philippines wherein the Philippine Olympic Committee coordinates closely with the Philippine Sports Commission, the government's financial arm in sports.

MOA signing

Prior to his speech, Samaranch witnessed the signing of a memorandum of agreement between POC president Celso Dayrit and PSC chair Carlos Tuason, granting the POC a new home at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

"The signing of the MOA between the POC and the PSC is a perfect example of government cooperation in sports," said Samaranch.

He arrived in the country Tuesday night with NOC relations director Pere Miro, Onoc president Richard Gosper, Onoc secretary general Robin Mitchell, Olympic Solidarity project officer Nicole Girard-Savoy and personal assistant Annie Inchauspe.

Among others, Samaranch pointed out that the highlight of his 20-year reign as IOC chieftain is the existence of unity among the member-countries of the IOC.

He noted the harmony in Korea as athletes and officials in North and South Korea marched as one in the Sydney Olympics last year.

"They marched wearing the same uniform. It won't be far until these countries unite," said Samaranch.

He also mentioned the growing involvement of women in sports administration particularly in the IOC where 10 percent of the officials are women.

"By the year 2003, we hope to increase the participation of women in the IOC to 20 percent," said Samaranch urging the POC to put women in key positions in the Olympic body

Courtesy call

After the breakfast meeting, Samaranch and his party proceeded to Malacañang for a courtesy call with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Samaranch ended his one-day official visit to the country when he flew to Singapore shortly in the afternoon.

His visit also marked the third and last time he stepped in Philippine soil. He first visited the country in the early '80s and returned in 1989 during Gov. Jose Sering's watch.

Meanwhile, Samaranch said he hopes for a quick end to the stalemate between China and the United States over a US surveillance plane.

Samaranch, who is visiting the Philippines to bid goodbye to local Olympic and sports officials, avoided linking the spy plane crisis to China's bid to host the 2008 Games.

"I think and I hope that this problem will be solved very soon," he said.

Elections will be held in July to choose the successor to Samaranch, who has held the position for 21 years.

The Beijing bid, already decried by human rights activists, has become a delicate subject for candidates seeking the top IOC post.

The debate has intensified in the past 10 days as the United States and China try to resolve a standoff involving the detention of the 24-man American spy plane crew.

Samaranch met President Macapagal Arroyo at the presidential palace where she conferred on him the Order of Sikatuna, an award given by the government to foreign dignitaries who have enhanced international relations.

With a report from AP

San Mig gets burly Fil-Am

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

UICHICO

SAN Miguel Beer added yet another firepower in its arsenal when it hired former Metropolitan Basketball Association Fil-American slotman Dorian Peña, who is expected to see action in the PBA All-Filipino Cup quarterfinals.

In a bid to finally take the only crown that has eluded the franchise the past two years, the Beermen acquired the burly, power-playing 6-foot-8 Peña, who will fill up the team's long-vacant center position.

"If he can play in the quarterfinals, we'll field him in right away," said SMB coach Jong Uichico, who met Peña yesterday to finalize the slotman's stint in the team.

Uichico said he's hopeful Peña can beat the deadline for making changes in the lineup.

"We actually will know it later today because tomorrow (Maundy Thursday) will be a holiday," Uichico told the INQUIRER.

Peña's immigration papers are supposedly in order, said Uichico. "It should be ready, otherwise we won't sign him yet."

Although Peña has yet to practice with the Beermen, Uichico bared that he has seen the team work out yesterday. He will see action as soon as possible.

Peña's addition to the already formidable franchise all the more intensifies the Beermen's quest for the AFC and paves the way for another grand slam for the team.

San Miguel won the Commissioner's Cup and the Governors Cups since 1999, missing only the AFC because it lacked a legitimate slotman.

Peña's presence in the slot will ease the pressure off resident scorers Danny Ildefonso and Danny Seigle, who have been helping out Nic Belasco man the paint.

"It will be a big boost for us of course," said Uichico. "But I don't want to think about what good it would bring us. I would rather see it all happen. Right now, he will come in handy because of our injuries."

Seigle is nursing a back problem, Freddie Abuda has severe ankle sprain, while Boybits Victoria is suffering from hepatitis that would sideline him for more than a month.

Meanwhile, ousted team Sta. Lucia Realty managed to get a graceful exit after defeating quarterfinalist Pop Cola, 79-64, last night at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

The Realtors wound up at the end of the standings with a 4-10 record, while the Panthers dropped to 8-6 although their No. 3 standings will stay the same in the next round.

In the second game, Barangay Ginebra ripped Batang Red Bull, 101-74, to arrange a quarterfinal duel with Pop-Cola. The Thunder will meet San Miguel Beer.

Torre captures Nat'l Open title

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre capped his successful comeback to the top by capturing the men's crown of the National Open Chess championships with a simple draw with NM Allan Sayson yesterday.

Both players avoided complications and agreed to a draw in 15 moves of a Petroff Defense after just 30 minutes of action as Torre earned his first local title since winning the 1995 Far East Open.

Torre, who played black, closed out his triumphant campaign—which he said was unexpected—with 7.5 points garnered through four wins and seven draws to pocket the top P120,000 prize in the tourney backed by Wella-Balsam.

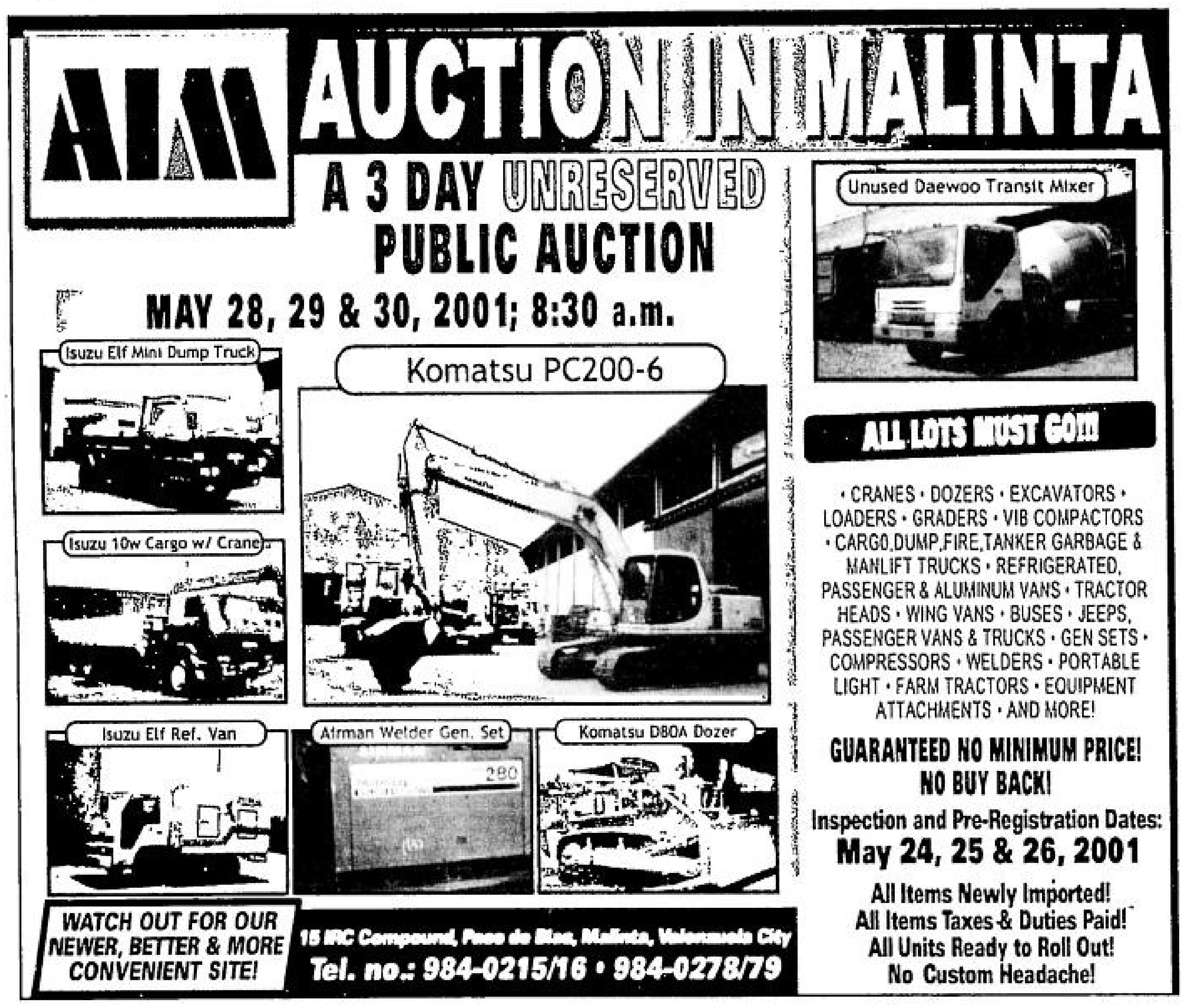
"The thought of winning the championship never entered my mind until I won in the penultimate round," said Torre of his crucial win over National Master Jayson Gonzales in 41 moves of a French Advance game in Round 10 last Tuesday.

Grandmasters Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor, who also happen to be NCFP officials, shared runner-up honors with victories over separate foes at the end of the event held at the Ramon Magsaysay Hall of the SSS building in Quezon City.

Antonio trounced International Master Chito Garma in 24 moves of a French Defense while Villamayor, who went 4-for-4 in his last four matches, forced slumping IM candidate Richard Bitoon into time forefeit in 25 moves of a Catalan Opening.

Top seeds advance

OEIRAS, Portugal—Top-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero advanced into the second round of the Estoril Open with a 6-3, 7-6 (2) win Tuesday over unseeded Harel Levy. Ferrero, one of the heroes of Spanish team that won the Davis Cup in December, overcame the Israeli in 81 minutes. Britain's Tim Henman eased past Austrian Stefan Koubek 6-4, 6-1. The No. 2 seed played a confident game despite splitting Monday with his long-time coach David Felgate.



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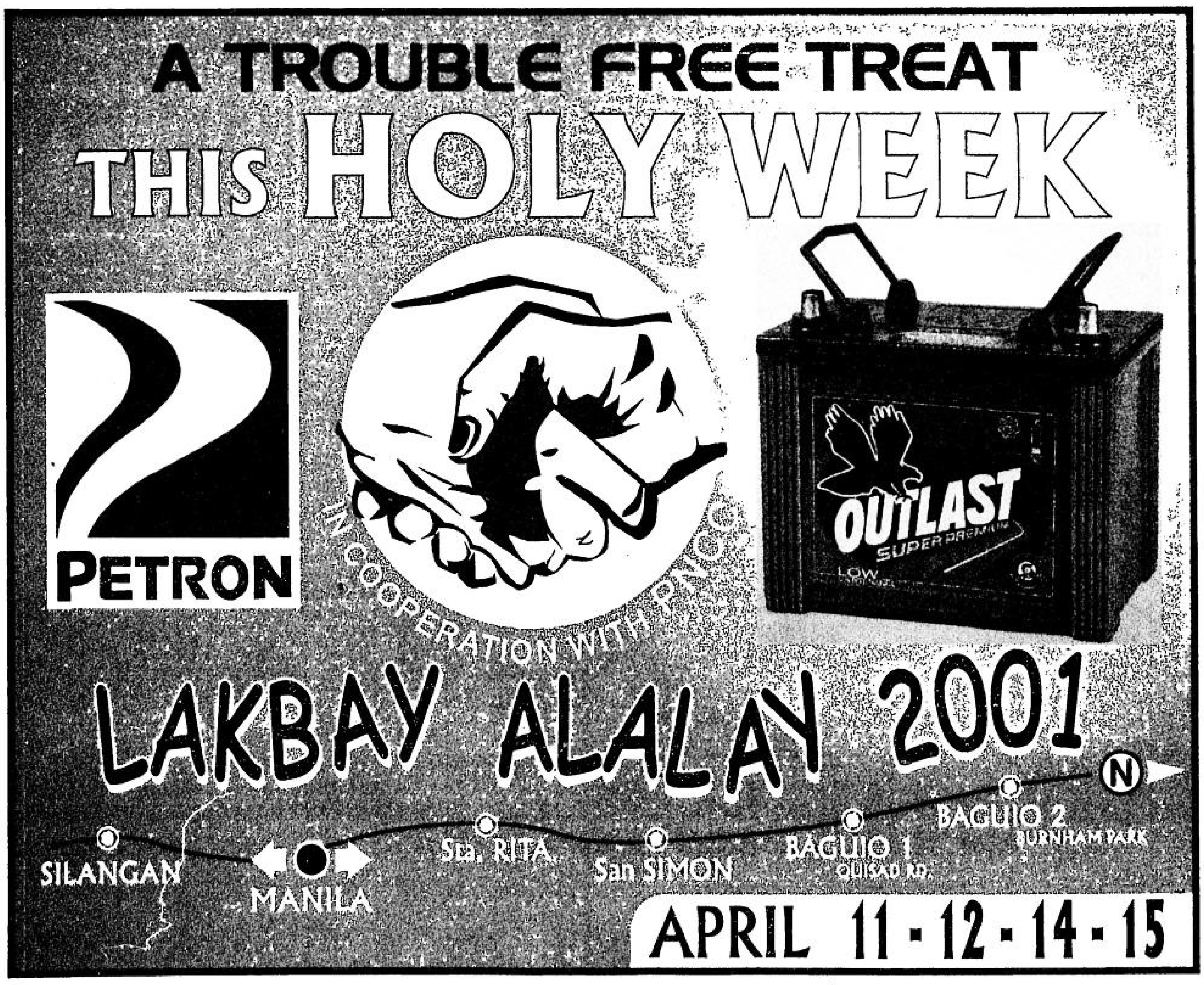


- **Man slain over P25** A14
- **Construction worker stabbed dead by kin** A14

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

7 car thieves fall

BY DAVE M. VERIDIANO

POLICE have arrested seven suspected members of a gang of car thieves who are based in Metro Manila but dispose of the hot vehicles in Baguio City, the country's summer capital.

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), yesterday said that the arrest of the seven suspects was a part of continuing police operations against car thieves. The operations started in Marilao, Bulacan, then moved on to Victoria, Tarlac and then to Baguio City, he said.

"The CIDG, together with its counterpart in the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (ISAFP), made possible the early arrest of the seven suspected car thieves in a record 19-hour operation

from Metro Manila to Baguio City," Gualberto said.

He said the operation against the gang was prompted by the alarming number of vehicles stolen in Metro Manila, particularly in the parking lots of big malls, he said.

The first part of the operation started at about 2 p.m. on Monday in a buy-bust operation in the parking lot of the Divine Mercy Church in Marilao, Bulacan.

Two suspects, a man and a woman, were immediately arrested after accepting P100,000 in cash from a "buyer," Gualberto said.

The money was meant to be initial payment for a Mitsubishi GSP car and an L-300 van, he said.

The buyer was a CIDG agent who had negotiated the sale of the two stolen vehicles.

Arrested in that operation were Philip Pablo, 24, alias Popoy, of Carmelite Street, Merville Subdivision, Parañaque, and Evangeline Bacolod, 20, of Montojo Street, Makati City, according to Gualberto.

While the two suspects were being interrogated, Pablo received a text message on his cellular phone from a certain Hanz, asking Pablo to pick him up at Violeta Subdivision in Guiguinto, Bulacan, investigators said.

It turned out that Hanz's real identity is Anton Tan, who claimed to-be a physical therapist and who was later identified by the CIDG agents as the financier of the group.

After the arrest of Tan and Pablo, the CIDG agents traced two more suspected gang members, who were waiting at a gas station in Victoria, Tarlac. These two were immediately arrested, Gualberto said.

They were identified as Abelardo Chavez, 28, of Champaca, and Alex Pangilinan, of 1840 Kahilum II, both in Pandacan, Manila.

The two men were riding an apparently stolen vehicle (UTY-645), investigators said.

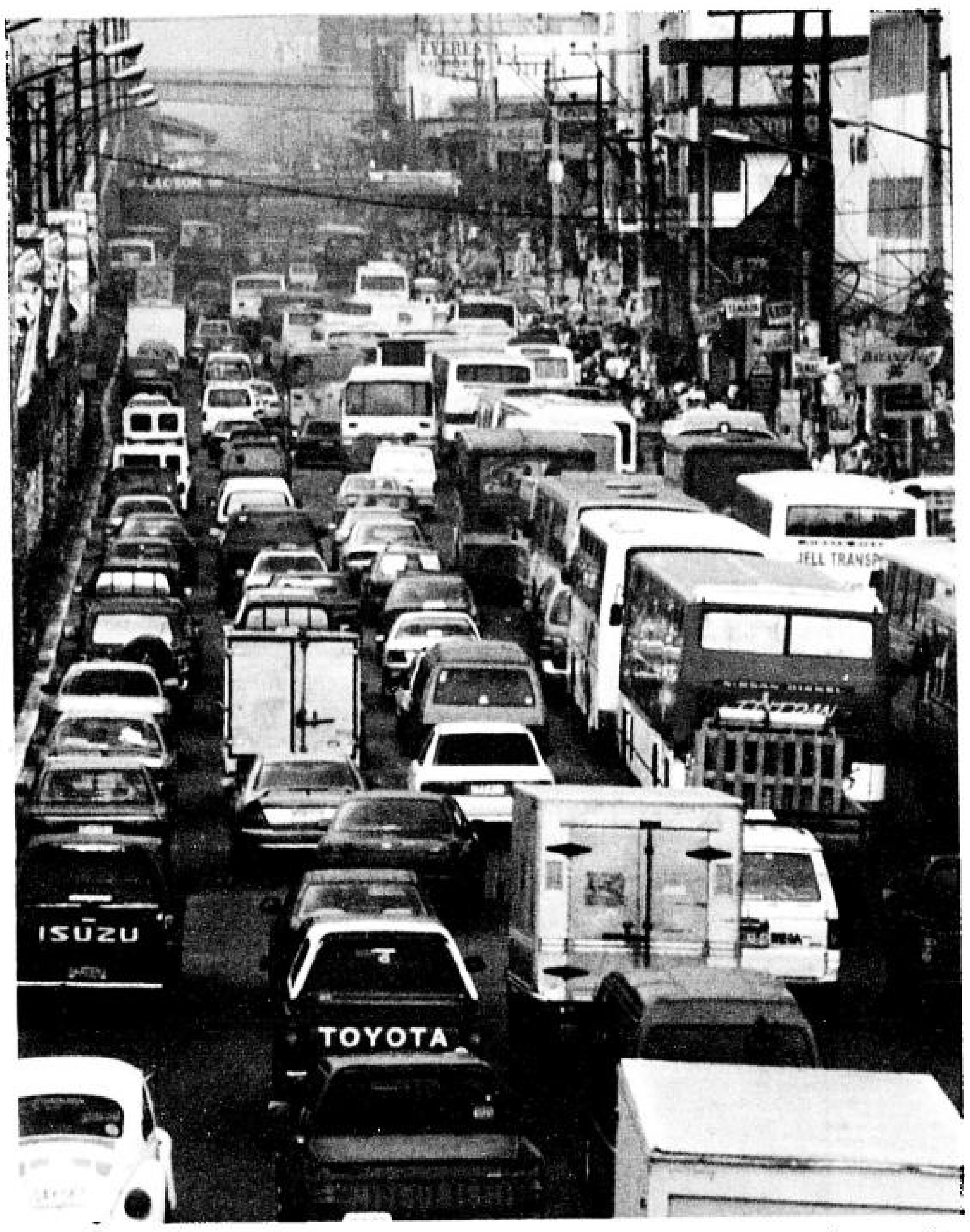
Found inside the vehicle was a bolt cutter, which the gang apparently used in their car theft operations.

The last to fall were Jalimao Ong, 32, of Honeymoon Street, and Dexter Salvacion, 30, alias Dex, of Honeymoon Street, Trancoville in Baguio City.

Both were arrested in Baguio City and were immediately brought to CIDG headquarters in Camp Crame for interrogation.

Charges were filed against them before the Department of Justice prosecutor's office.

HOLY WEEK, CROWDED WEEK
Whether people travel by land, sea or air to go to their provinces or to resorts and other holiday destinations, all routes are busy and people find they have to do a lot of waiting. Metro Manila residents going home to Dumaguete wait for hours to board south-bound boats at Pier 4 (above) in Manila. Those going to the north fall asleep waiting for their buses at a terminal in Cubao, Quezon City. Because of the exodus, commuters in Metro Manila are again caught in huge traffic jams, such as on Edsa. EDWIN BACASMAS, JESS YUSON



2nd RUNNER UP 2001

TRIUMPH IN TURKEY
Maricar Balagtas, second runner-up in the recent Binibining Pilipinas 2001 beauty contest, was recently crowned Miss Globe International in Istanbul, Turkey, the Bb. Pilipinas Charities Inc. announced yesterday. Balagtas won over 28 other beauties from other parts of the world. She is expected to come home tomorrow afternoon, BPCI said.

Red Cross fields first aid volunteers

THE PHILIPPINE National Red Cross is fielding about 400 trained volunteer first-aiders and rescue workers to assist motorists during the Holy Week.

Red Cross secretary general Lourdes R. Loyola said the first aid volunteers will man the 122 first-aid stations along the North and South expressways and other major streets and strategic areas from Baguio to Bicol.

The first aid service is part of the agency's yearly motorist assistance project in coordination with Pilipinas Shell, Petron Philippines, Caltex Philippines and other support agencies and business establishments.

The Red Cross will also provide roving ambulance services to monitor the situation and ensure immediate response to emergencies.

The Red Cross has also alerted its blood center in Port Area, Manila and blood stations in its various chapters to ensure the availability of blood.

The Red Cross said it will be operating 24 hours during the entire Holy Week. For any assistance, call 527-83-84 to 54.

'Kalbaryo' of the urban poor

BY AGNES E. DONATO

EDWIN QUINSAYAS sees Christ in everyone among the huddled masses.

He describes their suffering as like those of Christ. Their plight, as told in Christ's Seven Last Words, was what Quinsayas had in mind when he wrote and directed the play "Kalbaryo ng Sambayanan."

"The play is a depiction of the sufferings of Christ as mirrored in the oppression of the people," said Quinsayas of the cultural organization Sining Bugkos. "The economic crisis being experienced now is the cross that the common man has to carry on his shoulder every day."

Kalbaryo was first staged during the Holy Week of 1995. Since then, it has been staged yearly, undergoing revisions each time to keep abreast with political and economic developments.

"Somehow, producing the Kalbaryo every Holy Week has developed into a *panata* (vow) among the artists, writers and cultural workers composing Sining Bugkos," Quinsayas said.

This year's play tried to cover various multi-sectoral concerns such as the plight of peasants, workers, youth, women, human rights victims, and others.

Irreverent

Quinsayas admitted that he was very liberal—bordering on "irreverent," he claims—in snatching stories from the Bible to use in his "Kalbaryo," and he would not pass off the play as a faithful account of Christ's Passion.

He made use certain stories in the Holy Book, some of which even came from the Old Testament, giving each a new spin to comment on present-day issues.

For example, Christ's thirst becomes the peasants' unquenched thirst for land while Moses' exodus depicts the problems of the urban poor.

"These people (urban poor) just never get to settle in one place because there are demolitions everywhere," Quinsayas said. "One

KALBARYO/A14

'Pasyon' in prison

BY TJ BURGONIO

SOME carry crosses, others scourge themselves with bladed whips. And still others have themselves nailed to a cross.

These men and their rituals are commonly seen in the streets of many parts of the country during Lent.

In the Quezon City jail, the prisoners also relive the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, with less spectacle but perhaps with more piety and faith.

Within the congested, squalid prison walls of the Quezon City jail, about 1,800 inmates pray, chant the *Pasyon*, do the Stations of the Cross and otherwise reflect during Holy Week. A few make penance through self-flagellation.

And like most Catholics, each prisoner prepares himself not only physically but also spiritually for Holy Week by attending a half-day recollection session officiated by the jail chaplain, Fr. Tony Ranada.

First-time visitors to the jail during Holy Week are amazed to find a gaggle of detainees taking turns in participating in the *Pabasa* in a makeshift hut set up in the prison quadrangle.

Pabasa is the dirge-like chanting of verses from the Filipino book of the Passion of Christ, a traditional Holy Week rite in the Philippines.

The Quezon City inmates were grouped into nine districts. The members of each district were given three hours each to do the *Pabasa*, from Holy Monday until Holy Wednesday.

"The Pasyon is chanted 24 hours a day," said Venancio Roxas, president of the association of inmates called Kapit-Bisig 2000. He is also the organizer of the jail's Holy Week activities. "So don't wonder if you hear chanting coming from the jail at midnight or in the wee hours."

It is not uncommon for some inmates to hold their own *Pabasa* in their own districts as part of their yearly *panata* or vow. Each jail district covers four to five cells.

The inmates began their Holy Week celebrations on Palm Sunday, with an early morning Mass in the jail chapel.

Earlier, they made *palaspas*, from fronds of coconut planted around the jail compound, to mark Christ's triumphal entry to Jerusalem before his Passion.

Today, Maundy Thursday, the inmates will reenact the washing of the feet during a 5 p.m. Mass, with some people selected earlier to portray Christ and his 12 apostles.

On Good Friday, the inmates listen to religious leaders, including Roxas, interpret Christ's Seven Last Words in the quadrangle from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Speakers from religious organizations outside the jail were invited to this event, according to Roxas.

From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Good Friday, the inmates will reenact the 14 Stations of the Cross by praying before each of the stations set up in some of the jail's 40 cells.

At around this time, some inmates, who have made it a yearly vow to whip their bodies as a form of penance, join the procession around the jail. Black Saturday is rest day for the inmates.

On Easter Sunday, they will reenact the *Salubong* at 7 a.m. with an angel (to be played by an inmate's daughter) escorting the risen Christ from the steps of the jail's tower to a waiting Virgin Mary (to be portrayed by a female inmate) in the chapel.

While these rituals have become part of the jail's tradition over the years, they give the inmates a chance to retreat from their mundane life and reflect on Christ's suffering vis-à-vis their own.

"These are moments when we reflect on the life of Christ and do our own soul-searching," said Roxas.

INMATES of the Quezon City jail gather for the daily head count. EDWIN BACASMAS

DOTC sets up 24-hour help desk

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications has set up a 24-hour help desk to ensure the safety and convenience of people going to the provinces for the Lenten season.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon D. Alvarez said in a statement that the project, called "Kaagapay sa Paglalakbay 2001," will run until Easter Sunday, April 15, 2001.

The project will have motorist assistance teams, tow trucks, communications facilities, ambulances and first aid teams for land, air and waterfront terminals all over the country and in strategic areas in Regions 3 and 4 and the National Capital Region.

Because many people are expected to return to their provinces for the Holy Week, the transportation department will ensure that there will be no overloading of buses, water vessels and other vehicles in order to avoid accidents.

Alvarez said some public officials and personnel as well as volunteers from civic groups and the private sector vowed to assist the DOTC in this program. *Anthony O. Alcantara*

'Experience on the Hill'

THE BIBLE says many great things happened on a hill—the giving of the 10 commandments, the transfiguration, the crucifixion, and many other events that affected many people.

Bukal ng Tipan, in Maryhill Compound, Taytay, Rizal, offers the unique Holy Week "Experience on the Hill." The experience includes Last Supper and a bonfire on Holy Thursday; carrying a cross to the top of the hill at high noon of Good Friday.

Bro. Mike Joseph, a member of the Bukal ng Tipan team, will lead the reflection. Fr. Mark Lesage, together with a team, will be in charge of the liturgical celebrations.

For more information, call 658-5064 or 825-3892.

Construction worker stabbed dead by kin

A CONSTRUCTION worker, who insisted that he and his companions pay their restaurant bill, was stabbed to death by his cousin after a drinking session in Quezon City yesterday morning.

Totoy Orbaneja, 26, of Pacita Street, North Fairview, Quezon City, suffered several stab wounds on the body, said case investigator SPO4 Marcelino Castillo.

Orbaneja died while undergoing treatment at the National Orthopedic Hospital.

His attacker, his cousin Rey Orbaneja, remains at large, police said.

The two Orbanejas and four other co-workers at a construction site on Speaker Perez Street were having a drinking session in a videoke bar on Banawe Street when Rey insisted that they should not pay their bills, investigation showed.

Totoy disagreed and argued with his cousin, police said.

To avoid further trouble, the group decided to return to the construction site, police said.

When the group reached the corner of Kanlaon and Catalina Streets in Barangay Maharlika, Rey suddenly pulled out a fan knife and stabbed his cousin several times, investigation showed.

Christian V. Esguerra

Security firm robbed of payroll money

A SECURITY agency lost close to P300,000 in payroll money to four armed men on motorcycles in Quezon City on Tuesday, police said yesterday.

Veronica Liwanag, 30, an employee of Sphinx Security Agency and resident of 242 Bisig ng Kabataan, Caloocan, was parking her car in front of the office at the Polaris Compound in Tandang Sora when the four men approached her, said case investigator PO1 Edwin de la Cruz of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Division.

Liwanag had just withdrawn payroll money from the Equitable PCI branch on Visayas Avenue. She had a total of P186,467.17 in cash and a check for P109,015.89, investigation showed.

When she refused to open the door of Mitsubishi Lancer, one of the men shot the car's right front window, police said.

The bullet, from a still unknown gun caliber, pierced Liwanag's body, De la Cruz said in his report.

The four men, who were on board two motorcycles, took the cash, check and Liwanag's belongings and sped toward an unknown direction, police said.

Liwanag was rushed to the Quezon City General Hospital.

Christian V. Esguerra

Family retreat, 'Siete Palabras' by Fr. Sonny

REV. Fr. Sonny Ramirez, OP, a Dominican priest and TV personality, will be the Holy Week retreat master at the Loved flock Oratory at the corner of Quezon Avenue and Timog Avenue today and on April 13 and 14, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Fr. Sonny has been conducting spiritual retreats for the past 25 years especially for families and the youth.

The theme of this year's family retreat is "Family Under Siege: A Crisis in Changes and Values."

Fr. Sonny will discuss the difficulties the Filipino family is undergoing.

Well-known personalities and families will share their life experiences during the retreat. The loved Flock Music Ministry and the Shoppesville Choir will lead the singing during the retreat.

On Good Friday, Fr. Sonny will expound on the Seven Last Words of Jesus, from noon till 3 p.m. with the theme "Ang Pamilyang Pilipino sa Paanan ng Krus."

Both the three-day retreat and the Seven Last Words will be shown live on TV over IBC 13 starting at 10 a.m.

Admission is free, but seats are on a first come, first served basis.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, April 12, 2001
Holy Thursday

1st Reading:	**Ex 12:1-8, 11-14**
2nd Reading:	**1 Cor 11:23-26**
Gospel:	**Jn 13:1-15**

It was before the feast of the Passover. Jesus realized that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father, and as he had loved those who were his own in the world, he would love them with perfect love.

They were at supper and the devil had already put into the mind of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray. Jesus knew that the Father had entrusted all things to him, and as he had come from God, he was going to God. So he got up from table, removed his garment and taking a towel, wrapped it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing.

When he came to Simon Peter, Simon said to him, "Why, *Lord,* you want to wash my feet!" Jesus said, "What I am doing you cannot understand now, but afterwards you will understand it." Peter replied, "You shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you can have no part with me." Then Simon Peter said, "*Lord,* wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus replied, "Whoever has taken a bath does not need to wash (except the feet), for he is clean all over. You are clean, though not all of you." Jesus knew who was to betray him; because of this he said, "Not all of you are clean."

When Jesus had finished washing their feet, he put on his garment again, went back to the table and said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Master and *Lord,* and you are right, for so I am. If I, then, your *Lord* and Master, have washed your feet, you also must wash one another's feet. I have just given you an example that as I have done, you also may do."

Commentary

It is fitting that this Thursday be called Maundy (from the Latin word mandatum, which means "command"), for on this day we receive the command, "Do this in memory of me!" To celebrate the Eucharist is not mainly to adore the Eucharistic presence. To celebrate it is to do what Jesus did, who broke his body and poured out his blood for us. "If I, then, your Lord and Master have washed your feet, you also must wash one another's feet. I have just given you an example that as I have done, you also may do." This is to do the Eucharist: to be a humble servant of the community for God's sake. Competitive ambition, therefore, which is characteristic of the world today, has no place in an Eucharistic community.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Evident premeditation—The 3 requisites needed to prove evident premeditation are the following: (a) the time when the offender determined to commit the crime; (b) the time when the offender had clung to his determination; and (c) a sufficient interval of time between the determination and the execution of the crime to allow him to reflect upon the consequences of his act. None of the above requisites exist in this case. The record is bereft of any evidence to show when the accused decided to kill the victim. It was no shown that the accused meditated and reflected upon their decision to kill the victim. Likewise, there is a dearth of evidence that the accused persisted in their plan to kill the victim. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, People v. Santiago, G.R. No. 129371, October 4, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Man slain over ₱25

By Christian V. Esguerra

A 33-YEAR-OLD man lost his life because of P25.

For refusing to pay a P25 debt, jeepney barker Joel Cordeta of 129 Samson Road, Caloocan City, was stabbed to death by Rogelio "Bebe" Molina of Cadima Street, Barangay Tonsuya, Malabon, in Caloocan on Tuesday, police said.

Cordeta suffered several stab wounds on the chest and died before he could be brought to the Manila Central University Hospital in Caloocan, said case investigator PO1 Marlon Binggayen.

Initial investigation by the Caloocan Police Station Investigation Branch showed that Molina confronted Cordeta for not paying his debt, at about 10 a.m. Monday at the corner of Pio Valenzuela Street and Samson Road.

Cordeta, who was with his wife, reportedly did not like the way Molina asked him to pay the debt and an argument ensued, police said.

Apparently irked, Molina pulled out a fan knife and repeatedly stabbed Cordeta, police said.

Jose Balagtas, chair of Barangay 78, ran after the suspect but the latter was able to escape, investigation showed.

Police were still looking for Molina as of yesterday.

How to win the insurgency war

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AN INQUIRER report last Monday (Second Front Page, Page 2) said the military was waging a hi-tech war against the Abu Sayyaf terrorists.

Sophisticated weaponry and gadgets are useless in a guerilla war which is basically what the Moro bandits and the New People's Army (NPA) are waging against the government.

Big, conventional forces like brigades and battalions are no match against small, highly mobile groups like those of the Abu Sayyaf and the NPA.

* * *

A group of six or, at the most 12 guerrillas, can move fast and undetected in the jungle. Since they know the terrain, the guerrillas can live off the fat of the land. They know what part of the jungle they can get their food supply from, or where to set up camp.

The existence of the guerillas depends to a great extent on the local populace. If they incur the displeasure of the locals, they're finished. The very same people who once supported them or sympathized with them would tell government troops of their location.

Remember, the NPA guerillas who held Army Maj. Noel Buan captive for almost two years were supported by the Mangyans of Mindoro. The natives didn't tell on the NPAs because they were told the communist guerillas were their friends and the government troops their enemy.

If there was no agreement between the government and the NPAs, Buan would still be with his captors in the jungles of Mindoro.

* * *

What's this corner driving at? The government should change tactics in fighting the rebels.

Instead of sending a battalion of soldiers to go after the Moro terrorists, why not break them up into squads (a squad is composed of nine to 12 men) or five-man teams? Fight the guerillas in their own kind of warfare.

Yes, the Army Rangers and the Special Forces are already doing that—fighting the guerillas in their own alley. But the military still insists on fighting a frontal war, instead of a hit-and-run battle, against the guerillas. By and large, the military goes after the guerillas in big numbers. Apparently, it finds safety in big numbers.

* * *

But soldiers fighting in big numbers never win in guerilla or unconventional warfare.

Guerillas don't fight frontally. They ambush troop convoys and then disappear into the jungles or merge with the local populace. The guerillas are members of the local populace.

That was the reason the US lost the war in Vietnam, because they were fighting people who were part-time peasants and part-time guerillas.

The only way for the government to win the insurgency war is to fight the guerillas in their own bailiwicks using their own tactics. If the government wins the sympathy of the people in the boondocks the insurgency war is already half won.

* * *

But how does the government win the sympathy of people in the boondocks? Simple. Just make the government's presence felt in the remote areas.

One way of doing that is to assign government health workers to the remotest barrios. Yes, public school teachers are everywhere, even in remote areas, but they can't treat the sick. Most barrio folk are prone to diseases and they need doctors, nurses, government midwives or health workers to attend to them.

Many years ago, I hunted deer and wild boar with people of similar hobbies in some remote areas where we knew the NPAs held sway. You know why we were not touched by the NPAs ? We brought along medicines and gave them for free to the local residents. We were sincere in dealing with the locals, sharing food with them.

Some members of the hunting group were military men. But they, too, were not touched because they didn't bring high-powered weapons like Armalites and .45 caliber pistols with them. We only carried shotguns and .22 caliber rifles.

If hunters like us, ordinary civilians that we were, could win the friendship of NPA sympathizers by merely distributing free medicine and sharing our food with them, how much more those medical workers who can save lives?

Many people in remote barrios die because they get no medical attention.

That's the reason why reelectionist Sen. Juan Flavier is very popular. He used to work among the poor folk in the remote areas.

* * *

The military side of the anti-insurgency war is easy if the government has already won the sympathy of the local folk.

Army Scout Rangers or Special Forces men or policemen from the Special Action Force can set up small detachments in remote areas. But these soldiers or policemen should mingle with the local populace. If possible, these soldiers should specialize in treating people using herbal or local medicines. They must pay for the food they get from the barrio folk.

If the soldiers respect the barrio folk, they will return the favor. They will act as the intelligence arm of the soldiers. They will inform the soldiers about the presence of armed men in the area.

* * *

Treating the barrio folk with utmost respect should be stressed among soldiers and policemen assigned to live with them.

Abusive soldiers or policemen should be punished swiftly and, if possible, publicly.

This dramatic way of punishing erring military or policemen in remote areas is a surefire way of winning sympathy of the populace.

New People's Army guerillas punish their members publicly when they abuse the local people.

Fire hits Malate shanties

ABOUT P1 million worth of property were destroyed in an hour-long fire that struck a row of shanties in Malate, Manila on Monday night.

SFO4 Danilo Talusan of the city fire department said the blaze started around 11 p.m. on the third floor of the house of a certain Johnny Macam at no. 2102-23 Purok 5, Adriatico Street.

Talusan said that since the three-door residence was made of light materials, the fire spread quickly. The blaze, whose cause is still being determined, reached the fifth alarm before it was put out at 11:51 p.m.

Three people were reportedly slightly injured while trying to save their belongings but they were not immediately identified. Customers of a motel near the burning houses panicked, according to investigators.

The investigators could not immediately confirm the claims of several residents that several youths were having a shabu session in one of the houses and that the burner they were using could have fallen and caused the blaze.

Jerome Aning

GRO dies inside Sta. Cruz motel

A 34-YEAR-OLD guest relations officer died of an apparent cardiac arrest allegedly while with a man inside a motel in Sta. Cruz, Manila before dawn yesterday.

Zenaida de los Cientos, a resident of 1351 Natividad St., Sta. Cruz, was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

SPO1 Raul Olavario of the city police homicide section said De los Cientos and her Filipino-Czech boyfriend, identified only as Ernesto Witach, checked in at the Ornico Lodge at 1340 Rizal Ave. Tuesday night.

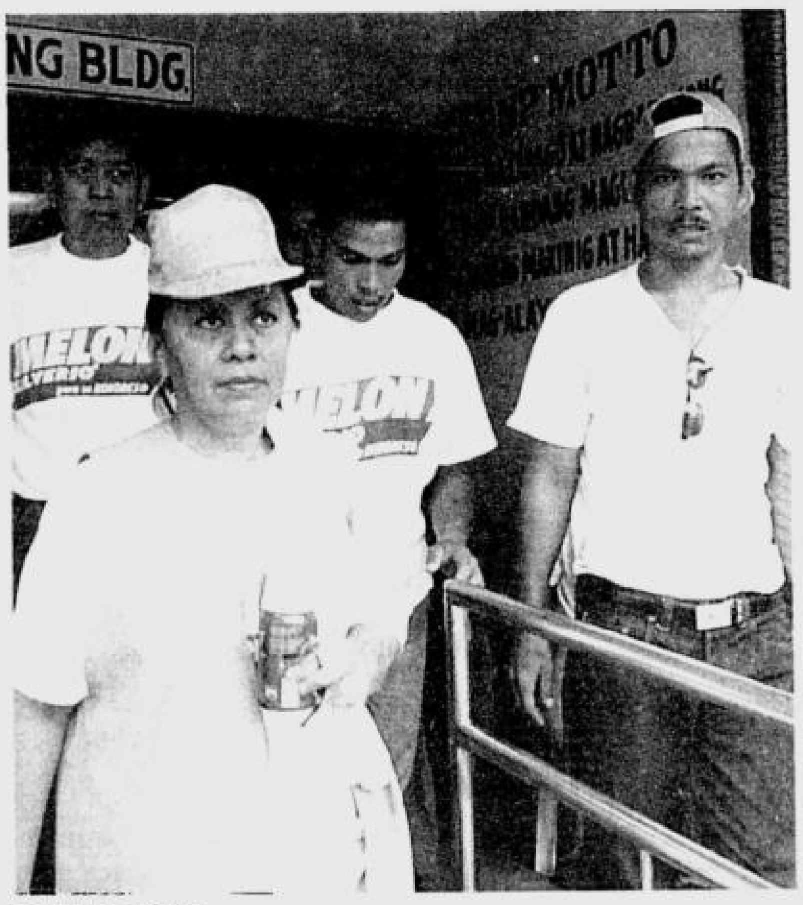
According to Witach, they usually checked in at the motel because it was very near the nightclub where De los Cientos worked.

Witach later told investigators that he was awakened around 3:45 a.m. by the sound of his partner trashing around in bed and moaning and gasping for breath. He said he tried to wake her up but he failed, so he shouted for help.

De los Cientos was brought to the JRMMC but it was already too late.

Policemen found scratch marks on Witach's back, but he claimed those were caused by De los Cientos' fingernails during their lovemaking.

Jerome Aning



BAILED OUT
Melon Recto-Silverio, a congressional candidate in Makati's first district, leads supporters out of the city's Makati police station after she bailed them out. Police arrested them for putting up campaign posters in the city's Rockwell commercial complex. Silverio complained that supporters of her political opponents were also posting campaign posters in the same area but were not touched by police.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

'Kalbaryo' of the urban poor

(From page A13)

minute, they were starting to build a life in one community; the next, the government or some private company would come and build a project in their area and they would have to look for another place to live in.

"It's a vicious cycle."

"Kalbaryo" begins with the waving of palms and the singing of hosannahs.

The actors are celebrating the ouster of the "moustached Herod," a thinly veiled allusion to former President Estrada, and the ordinary people are singing songs of praise.

But when the joyous mood dies down, the actors then point to a huge triangle at the back of the stage where torn portraits of Estrada and President Macapagal-Arroyo are put up.

Quinsayas said the triangle symbolized the "Holy Trinity" that is the urban poor, labor and peasant sectors, and their struggles.

Calvary continues

The play noted that even with Estrada out of Malacañang, the "Calvary" of the people continues.

In the scene called "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do," the actors provide the audience an overview of social injustice in the country. Here, the cast calls for Estrada's arrest and imprisonment, as well as expropriation of his alleged ill-gotten wealth.

"It has been said again and again that there could be no healing without forgiveness," Quinsayas said. "But before all this could take place, he who has sinned must first be punished. And that is something Estrada still has to go through three months after the people found him guilty.

"So we challenge the Macapagal administration to stop washing its hands as Pontius Pilate did and get serious in prosecuting Estrada."

The play also tackles the country is faring under the policy of globalization, which President Macapagal espouses.

"Didn't the government promise that globalization would take the people to paradise?" Quinsayas asked, adding that the policy has so far taken the people nowhere.

And because of the policies of liberalization, deregulation and privatization, the people now have to bear the new round of demolitions in urban poor communities, mass layoff in factories, and conversion of agricultural lands meant for farmers into residential subdivisions, according to Quinsayas.

In another portion of Kalbaryo, Mary is compared to "Inang Bayan," or Mother Country, and Jesus to the toiling masses.

Actors as poor people plod on stage, some pushing *kariton* which contains what meager belongings they have such as rusty galvanized iron sheets to cover their heads, plastic boards and an old stove.

"Christ-workers" go through their version of "scourging at the pillar," when they are hit with such unfair labor practices as union-busting, contractualization and retrenchment.

Then there is the all-too-familiar dispersal scene, where strikers are violently taken off a picketline. A male striker is shot and a female colleague rushes to him to cradle his still form, evoking the image of the Pieta.

Neglected

Quinsayas also took pot shots at the election process.

"This was one of the major revisions made for this production," Quinsayas said. "We wanted to make clear our stand on the electoral system, that while politicians are busy utilizing all means to maintain their hold on power, the real needs of the people are neglected."

And though they are skeptical of the electoral system, the producers of the play nonetheless endorsed Bayan Muna for the party-list.

Quinsayas said he did not mind if the play comes out as political propaganda.

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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NOW SHOWING

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
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3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	DTS	GLADIATOR (RI)
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
7	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	JOAN OF ARC
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN (RI)
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	GLADIATOR (RI)
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
11	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
7	DOLBY SURROUND	ACHILLES
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
11	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	DTS	THEY NEST
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER (RI)
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	ACHILLES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
7	DTS	GLADIATOR (RI)
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE GIFT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
9	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THEY NEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BILLY ELLIOT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
6	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
3	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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2	THE GIFT in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	GLADIATOR THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SECRET OF THE ANDES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	CHOCOLAT in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SAVE THE LAST DANCE in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	WEDDING PLANNER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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3	SAVE THE LAST DANCE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	WEDDING PLANNER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	CHOCOLAT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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4 GOLD (DTS)	GLADIATOR
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
6 GOLD (SDDS)	THE REPLACEMENT
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9	ROMEO MUST DIE
10	PATRIOT

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	UHAW SA INIT
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3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

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Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 831.6603

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3	UHAW SA INIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GLADIATOR
5	KRISTO

Metropolis (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	RESERVE
3	THEY NEST
4	UHAW SA INIT
5	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6	GLADIATOR
7	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
8	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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2	OOOPS TEKA LANG

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC tel 930.9515

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2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
A	KRISTO

JC Cinema (Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	
3	

GOTESCO CINEMA

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1 (DOLBY)	GLADIATOR
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	RESERVE
7 (DTS)	THE GIFT
8 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
9 (DOLBY)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	
6	

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	KAILANGAN KO'Y IKAW
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
6 (DOLBY)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
8	BABAENG PUTIK
9	UHAW SA INIT

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
2	RESERVE
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	UHAW SA INIT
5 (SDDS)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
6	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
7 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
8	OOPS TEKA LANG

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
3 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5 (SDDS)	GLADIATOR
6 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
7 (DOLBY)	RESERVE

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

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Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KAILANGAN KO'Y IKAW
2	GLADIATOR
3	WEDDING PLANNER
4	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Super Cinerama (Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	THEY NEST
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
3	REVELATION
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Divisoria Mall (Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	TOTAL AIKIDO
4	GLADIATOR
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
6	KAILANGAN KO'Y IKAW

Baclaran LRT Cinema tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
3	REVELATION

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	UHAW SA INIT
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3 (DTS)	GLADIATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2 (DTS)	QUILLS
3 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
4	GLADIATOR

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	GLADIATOR
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	UHAW SA INIT
4 (DTS)	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
4	TOTAL AIKIDO
5	UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	GLADIATOR
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	GLADIATOR
2	QUILLS
3	UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	WOMAN ON TOP
2	PANABLA
3	UHAW SA INIT

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	GLADIATOR
3	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	OOOPS TEKA LANG
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	RESERVE
4	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Cabuyao CINEMAS TEL (049) 5314808

1 (DTS)	BABAENG PUTIK
2 (DTS)	TANGING YAMAN

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	UHAW SA INIT
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	TOTAL AIKIDO

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	THE BAIT
4	WEDDING PLANNER

Berma tel 879.2168

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	GLADIATOR
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	ANAK
4 (DTS ES)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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Two promising films

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER the critical low blows that local bold movies have been getting of late, it's good to note that two promising Filipino films are showing this month.

The first is "Abakada . . . Ina," **Eddie Garcia**'s comeback directorial bid starring **Lorna Tolentino** as an illiterate mother who finally learns how to read and write for the sake of her children, and to better her own life.

The second movie, "Narinig Mo Ba ang L8est," which topbills **Aga Muhlach** and **Joyce Jimenez**, and is directed by **Joey Reyes**, deals with Pinoys' penchant for gossip, rumor and texting.

We hope that the two movies fulfill their promise and join other non-erotic films like "Tanging Yaman" and "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" that have made a mint by inspiring and entertaining moviegoers, instead of turning some people on—and others off!

Feedback

FROM **Jiggs Labrador**, these views on ABS-CBN shows as seen by a Filipino in the States on The Filipino Channel: "From your No. 1 reader, these reactions to the drastic changes in the network's programming after some of their top talents decided to run for public office:

"'TV Patrol:' *Kabayan* **Noli de Castro** is unparalleled as its anchor, but the new set of newscasters is doing OK.

"'Hoy, Gising:' It used a blow-by-blow style of unveiling anomalies. **Ted Failon** and **Coney Sison**'s opinions were aptly expressed through a brief sigh, a one-liner or a simple 'tsk.' In its new format, Sison and her new coanchor, **Erwin Tulfo**, spend more time giving their opinion and side comments. Ergo, the show has become boring.

"'Balitang Kris:' Ms Aquino was perfect on her former morning talk show. I liked watching her as her bubbly self, and not as a camera-conscious anchorper-son trying to be serious. She's really *pilit* in this program. The most logical anchor for 'Balitang K' is **Karen Davila**.

"'Alas Singko y Medya': They should've retained **Tintin** and **Julius**. It's their show, like 'Kris'

TWO/A16

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❻ SAVE THE LAST DANCE
❼ THE GIFT

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❹ SAVE THE LAST DANCE
❺ PERFECT STORM / ROMEO MUST DIE
❻ DIMAPIGIL ANG INIT

BACOLOD (034)441-0463

❶ WEDDING PLANNER
❷ SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
❸ MS. CONGENIALITY
❹ QUILLS
❺ TOO MUCH FLESH
❻ PURPLE STORM

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	GLADIATOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	GLADIATOR
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
MIRAMAR	TUHOG / FIRST DESIRE
ODEON	GLADIATOR
ODEON-2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
ROBEN	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
TANDEM-1	UHAW SA INIT
TANDEM-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
TIMES	EYE OF BEHOLDER / REMEMBER THE TITANS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
QUEZON-1	UHAW SA INIT
REMAR	SEDUCER
REMAR-2	UHAW SA INIT
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79, 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SECRET OF THE ANDES
CINEMA-2	MS CONGENIALITY
CAINTA·RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-2	BABAENG PUTIK
CINEMA-3	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	QUILLS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAIT
CINEMA-6	PANABLA
CINEMA-7	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-8	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THEY NEST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE GIFT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
CINEMA-12	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-14	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-15	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	RED PLANET
CINEMA-3	PROOF OF LIFE
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE GIFT
CINEMA-2	GLADIATOR
CINEMA-3	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
CINEMA-4	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-5	ALMOST FAMOUS
CINEMA-6	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

LOUIE'S CINEMA

THX It Will Change the Way You Hear and See Movies Forever

Louie's THX Cinema
will be closed
from April 9-13, 2001
in observance
of the coming Holy Week

Sweet November
Keanu Reeves
Charlize Theron
opens Saturday
April 14, 2001

GET A COPY of the 4th issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema featuring WOMEN IN CHINA

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Boring, biting subjects can't stop Boy from talking

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IN THE one year that he has been doing his solo show, "Private Conversations with Boy Abunda," on the ABS-CBN News Channel 21, host **Boy Abunda** has had a number of memorable interviews.

Starting from New Age guru **Deepak Chopra**, whom he interviewed for his pilot episode, Boy has interviewed a number of prominent personalities from show biz, society, politics and business.

The most memorable for him was when he had a one-on-one interview with President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** after only a few days of her oath-taking.

"I asked her questions like how tall are you," Boy shares. "We talked about Cabinet appointments or the constitutionality of the government. She was fun. It was right after her first press conference where she called up General (**Eduardo**) **Espinosa** on the cell phone on the spot. I like her because she listens."

He says most interesting interviews were those with **Kris Aquino, Joker Arroyo, Inno Sotto, Rajo Laurel** and Sr. **Christine Tan**.

One of his best was with former First Lady **Amelita "Ming" Ramos**.

"I asked her about what comes to her mind when she hears the name Baby Arenas. She snapped back, 'Next question, *hijo*.'"

Boy often wanted to ask his subjects certain questions but failed to do so "because I probably forgot to ask the question after the conversation became interesting," he says.

"I wanted to ask Justice Secretary **Nani Perez** about all the talks between him and President Macapagal. But I had to rephrase the question. I asked, 'What was the funniest gossip about you?' Then he laughed. He said, 'Are you talking about...? No, I'm not avoiding the question except that, for her...' Then I said, 'Are we talking about her?' There's really another way of doing it."

Another interview Boy cites was the one with **Juan Ponce-Enrile**. "He was so good in the interview. He said, 'Let's talk about mistresses, but let's talk about them in general terms.' He had a way of doing it even before I asked the question."

He admits he has done boring interviews, but Boy refuses to identify the subjects.

"I go slum book and ask them questions like what's your favorite color," he says. "There are really times when my guest and I don't jive. It's very difficult. Sometimes, I'm the one who's bad and I am not able to draw what I want to draw from my subject."

He avoids chatting with his guests before an interview.

"They lose steam and some of them get intimidated or tense," he says. "Unless necessary, the most that I do is say hi or hello. But I do read volumes of materials about my guests before my interview."

He says he also gets bothered when the guest tells him what not to ask.

His dream interview is. with action king **Fernando Poe Jr**. "I would love to feature him in the show, but I know he doesn't do interviews. I'd also love to interview Cardinal Sin and I wouldn't mind being scolded by him if I ask the wrong question."

He also would like to talk to TV/stage director **Fritz Ynfante.** "The discussion will not be about the philosophy or genesis of homosexuality but on how a homosexual life has been lived to its fullest. I think Fritz will do very well. He's a foremost gay writer who can philosophize on the relevance of homosexuals in the world today. You ask him one question and he can do the whole show for you."

On Sundays, Boy hosts the show biz-oriented show "The Buzz" with Kris Aquino.

He says he's a better interviewer than a host. "I find more fun in interviewing people. In my solo show, I get to talk not only to show biz stars. In fact, I've done more politicians. The movie stars come prepared, while politicians are more nervous. I still have to interview someone who did not come ready. Every show is very challenging."

"Private Conversations with Boy Abunda" marked its first year on cable TV last month. **Bobby Garcia** directs the show.

For arts and culture

A LANDMARK bill to promote and popularize the local music industry tops the agenda for culture and the arts of Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidate **Edgardo J. Angara**.

It is not surprising that Angara will create this bill. He was the principal author of the law that created the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

He also sponsored the Gawad Manlilikha Awards, which pays tribute to outstanding Filipino artists.

Angara said the proposed Music Industry Development Act is a big and dramatic measure that will boost and help develop the local music industry. It seeks the creation of a music industry development council, a body that will oversee efforts to promote and protect Filipino music.

The council will have a board composed of industry leaders, creative workers and performing artists. It will ensure the flow of financial assistance to artists and institutions through grants or loans.

Angara said the council would work out the payment of royalties to Filipino musicians "so they can get adequate compensation for their work."

Under the draft bill, the council has the authority to collect an equity fee from foreign artists performing in the country. The fee will go to the promotion of Filipino talents and musicians.

The bill also seeks to institutionalize a Parangal sa Musikang Pilipino Award which will honor amateur and professional singers.

Angara said he is also against censorship. He wants to make the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) an autonomous body that is self-policing and is not beholden to any government office, not even Malacañang.

"But I'm not in favor of abolishing the censors board," he said.

Two promising films

(From page A15)

belongs only to Ms Aquino.

"'Talk TV': Julius and Tintin are back to square one as they try to come up with their own identities in this new program. **Ryan Agoncillo** and **Janet McBride** should have been given their own youth-oriented magazine show. (*To be continued*).

Boob-tube booboos

HOST: Is (name of starlet) important to you?

Guest: Oh, very, very much.

Host: But you still date other women?

Guest: Well, yes . . .

Host: So, how can (name of starlet) be special to you? Prove it!

Guest: Ok, I'll prove it! I don't want to limit our relationship with labels, but one thing I can say: Of all the girls I associated with, she's the only one I associated with!

(Huh?!)

* * *

Host: Do you have a motto to live by?

Guest: Yes.

Host: Can you share it with us?

Guest: Sure! "Tell me who your friends are, and I'll tell you who they are!"

(Duh . . .)

Host: Did you hear about the fight in a nightclub in Turkey that involved a local celebrity?

Cohost: No, what happened?

Host: Well, two handsome millionaires fought over her. It was a big sensation. *Lahat ng turkey, pinag-usapan ang nangyari!*

(That's a lot of gobbledegook!)

* * *

Host: Did you see (title of movie)? It was really good!

Cohost: What did you like about it?

Host: Oh, everything—especially the beautiful pictures!

Co-host: The . . . pictures?

Host: Yes! In the locations *na ginamit* for the movie, *ang ganda ng* geography!

(Oh, shut up . . .)

MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED

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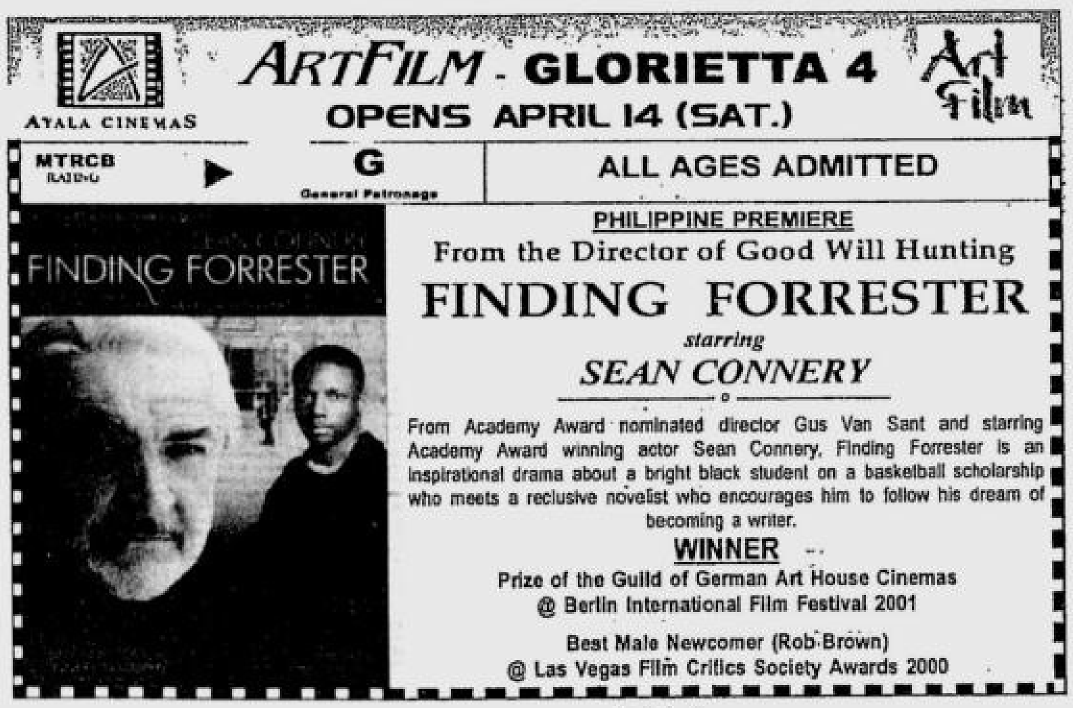
Meet CHUCKIE & TOMMY at SM malls!

SM CITY BACOOR MARCH 24
SM CITY MANILA (SM DEPT. STORE & TOY KINGDOM) MARCH 28
SM CITY PAMPANGA MARCH 29
SM CITY NORTH EDSA MARCH 30
SM CENTERPOINT APRIL 01
SM CITY ILO-ILO APRIL 04
SM CITY CEBU APRIL 05
SM CITY FAIRVIEW (STORYLAND) APRIL 07
SM MEGAMALL APRIL 08
SM SOUTHMALL APRIL 14

NICKELODEON
RUGRATS in PARIS THE MOVIE

united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

OPENS APRIL 14!


AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS APRIL 14 (SAT.)
Art Film

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
From the Director of Good Will Hunting
FINDING FORRESTER
starring
SEAN CONNERY

From Academy Award nominated director Gus Van Sant and starring Academy Award winning actor Sean Connery, Finding Forrester is an inspirational drama about a bright black student on a basketball scholarship who meets a reclusive novelist who encourages him to follow his dream of becoming a writer.

WINNER
Prize of the Guild of German Art House Cinemas
@ Berlin International Film Festival 2001

Best Male Newcomer (Rob Brown)
@ Las Vegas Film Critics Society Awards 2000

OPENS IN CINEMAS APRIL 18!

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

BIG SHOT. ONE BIG MOUTH.
THE SWITCH IS ON.
DOUBLE TAKE
Touchstone Pictures

Distributed by BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL thru Columbia Pictures

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

THE GIFT - P 13 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50	GLADIATOR - P 13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00	CROUCHING TIGER - P 13 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50
CHOCOLAT - P 13 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	ALMOST FAMOUS - R 18 11:45, 2:10, 4:25, 7:00	SAVE THE LAST DANCE - P13 12:55, 3:25, 6:05

Soundtrack on Warner Sunset/Reprise Records Featuring Music By Enya Paula Cole Stevie Nicks k.d. lang Barenaked Ladies

KEANU REEVES
CHARLIZE THERON
SWEET NOVEMBER
SHE JUST NEEDED A MONTH TO CHANGE HIS LIFE FOREVER.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult | GRAND OPENING APRIL 14! | WRock | mossimo

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

BSP disallows unnamed accounts

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has ordered banks to phase out in a year all "numbered, anonymous or fictitious" accounts to address the issue of money laundering and remove the Philippines' image as a haven for "dirty money."

"Banks and non-bank financial institutions under the supervision and regulation of the BSP must phase out all existing numbered, as well as anonymous or fictitious, accounts within one year or upon maturity, whichever comes first," the BSP said in a circular it issued this week.

Central bank officials said the new circular would require banks to reveal the identities of depositors maintaining numbered accounts and accounts listed under fictitious names.

Industry observers say the circular will force banks to reveal the identities of persons maintaining accounts that are believed to be held by ousted President Joseph Estrada.

These include accounts under the names "Jose Velarde" and "Kelvin Garcia," and a numbered account listed as "858."

These names surfaced during Estrada's Senate impeachment trial last year. House prosecutors alleged that these were names that Estrada used to hide billions worth of illegal gambling payoffs.

One key prosecution witness, Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president Clarissa Ocampo, testified she was present when Estrada placed a P500-million trust investment with Equitable PCI Bank using the name "Jose Velarde."

Prosecutors said Estrada also kept accounts under the name "Kelvin Garcia" with Citibank NA and Allied Banking Corp. He also allegedly owned Account No. 858, an investment account with Urbancorp Investment Inc. and was reported to have closed the account just days before the Urbancorp went belly up.

The Jose Velarde account contained roughly P3.5 billion in deposits that prosecutors said were payoffs made by "jueteng" operators to Estrada. Efforts by Estrada's lawyers to suppress evidence related to this account during the trial triggered a civilian revolt that forced Estrada to step down in January this year.

The BSP said its new circular phasing out numbered and anonymous accounts was primarily meant to address the issue of money laundering.

The central bank has required banks to submit regular reports as to how they are complying with existing anti-money laundering regulations.

Banks that will fail to meet this requirement will be meted a penalty of P1,200 per business day for universal and commercial lenders, P600 for thrift banks, and P180 for rural banks and cooperatives.

Last year, the BSP issued a circular seeking to look into the identity of numbered accounts to ensure that these are not being used for fraud, racketeering, drug trafficking or money laundering.

The central bank's latest circular reverses its earlier position that numbered accounts may be allowed in some cases, especially when these involve big companies.

The BSP now believes that numbered accounts should be phased out in all cases because these provide a loophole that money launderers and racketeers are exploiting.

A US treasury department official said earlier the Philippines and three other countries—Russia, Lebanon and Nauru—had shown little progress toward increasing cooperation with a multilateral initiative against money laundering.

In his March 6 testimony before the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Joseph Myers, acting deputy assistant Treasury secretary, said the countries participating in the initiative, called the Financial Action Task Force, would consider in June what actions to take against these countries.

At that meeting, he said, FATF members might list non-cooperative jurisdictions other than the 15 it listed in June 2000.

Myers said some of those 15 jurisdictions responded to FATF warnings by enacting changes in law, regulation and practice to halt support for money laundering; he listed those as the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, the Cook Islands, Israel, Liechtenstein and Panama.

World growth seen to slow as US falters

WASHINGTON—The world is finding out that the global economy cannot fly permanently on a single engine —the US economy.

World Bank economists said when the US economy swiftly began losing power late last year, it led to a global slowdown that hit some countries hard. They predicted a rebound later this year.

Nicholas Stern, the bank's chief economist, presented "Global Development Finance—2001," the bank's annual report on external financing prospects for developing countries and those making the transition to market economies.

The economists left themselves several escape hatches for their forecast not panning out—another Asian financial crisis, a sharp decline in the value of the dollar or large numbers of overseas investors suddenly withdrawing money from their home markets and investing in US markets in hopes of bigger returns.

"We have to recognize the world economy is slowing down," Stern said. "It will start picking up again but it's difficult to spot the turning point. We do think toward the end of the year."

The report is the first in a series of economic snapshots the bank and its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, will issue in the run-up to their annual spring meetings at the end of the month.

Hans Timmer, one of the report's authors, said while the current economic slowdown was sharpening, "I would not call this a hard landing, which still can be avoided because an early recovery is still possible."

He said this recovery could be driven by reduced interest rates, lower taxes and the rebound of high-tech markets, where manufacturers have to quickly replace obsolete inventory with new products.

But he said the downturn might cause banks to tighten lending conditions as companies make late payments on loans or go bankrupt.

The bank report said world gross domestic product growth was expected to bottom out at 2.2 percent this year, compared with a forecast last November of 3.4 percent, then climb to 3.3 percent in 2002.

Inflation in the seven industrialized countries is expected to average 1.8 percent this year, slightly down from 1.9 percent forecast last November.

Growth rates in the developing countries are expected to average 4.2 percent in 2001, a drop of more than a full percentage point from last year.

Growth is expected to be highest in East Asia and the Pacific at 5.5 percent and lowest in Europe and Central Asia with 2.3 percent because the Turkish and Russian

WORLD/ B2

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

President Macapagal-Arroyo receives from Ambassador Jesus Tambunting, trustee of the Philippine Business for Social Progress, a photo of mangroves in Samar that were planted in honor of the President's late mother, Doña Eva Macaraeg-Macapagal. The President attended a lunch meeting with trustees of the PBSP to discuss ways by which the organization can work with government agencies and units on various poverty-alleviation programs and projects.

FEEDSTOCK

Local group eyes Malampaya

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. is considering to use condensate from Malampaya as feedstock for the $600-million naphtha cracker, a PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. official said.

PNOC-PDC president Jose Gañgan told reporters the state-run firm was studying the possibility of acquiring 40 to 45 percent of the naphtha cracker's feedstock needs from the Malampaya gas field.

PNOC-PDC is the naphtha cracker project's lead proponent with a 34-percent stake. Another PNOC subsidiary—PNOC Exploration Co.—has a 10-percent stake in the Malampaya project.

Gañgan said such an arrangement would mean income for one PNOC subsidiary and savings for another.

He added that the memorandum of agreement among PNOC-PDC and 11 other firms would be renewed after the Holy Week since it expired at the end of March.

The official added that the equity structure agreement will be finally signed in June.

The naphtha cracker facility will have a capacity of between 350,000 and 500,000 tons a year, or enough to provide present and future increases in demand for monomers and polymers that plastic resin makers use as base material.

Without a naphtha cracker, the Philippines is totally dependent on imported raw materials for the local petrochemical industry.

On the other hand, the $2-billion Malampaya project will produce 2.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas over a 20-year period.

Located northwest off Palawan, the gas field has a condensate reserve of 85 million barrels to 120 million barrels.

The Malampaya is expected to start flowing 400 million cubic feet of natural gas and 20,000 barrels of condensate a day starting mid-year.

However, project officials said production throughout the oil field's expected life span will decline.

Earlier, Malampaya project operator Shell Philippines Exploration BV said they would most likely sell the condensate to Taiwan or Singapore since local refineries might not be able to process it.

Foreign IT firm gets BOI incentives

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments has granted pioneer incentives to a Bermuda-registered company, Innodata XML Content Inc., which will set up a cutting edge conversion facility in the Philippines.

The BOI gave Innodata pioneer incentives, which will entitle it to six-year income tax holiday, because it would invest more than P100 million and introduce a major innovation in software development in the country.

Innodata is investing P143.465 million for a data conversion center at the HVG Arcade in Subang Daku, Mandaue City, Cebu. The project will change information data using the extensible mark-up language (XML) to create common information formats and share both the format and the data of the World Wide Web and Intranets.

The company is jointly owned by Innodata Asia Holdings Ltd. (40 percent), Internet Content Asia Ltd. (40 percent), and Web Content Publishing Ltd. (20 percent).

Innodata Asia, one of the leading players in outsourcing services for digital content worldwide, has agreed to let Innodata XML to use its name to give it the strategic edge

FOREIGN/ B2

San Miguel to take over CampoCarne

FOOD and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. said it has settled an ownership dispute with its partner in San Miguel CampoCarne Corp. and will assume full control of the joint venture.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, San Miguel said its Spanish partner Campofrio Alimentacion S.A. (Campofrio) agreed to transfer its 50-percent stake in the venture to the Philippine conglomerate.

The disclosure cited Campofrio as saying: "Our current management thrust focuses on consolidating our processed meats businesses in Europe and maintaining a presence in the Philippines no longer fits our growth strategy at this time."

San Miguel began court proceedings against Campofrio in March in order to compel it to buy out the conglomerate's stake in the joint venture.

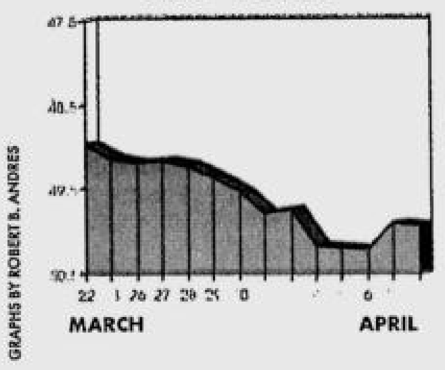
Details of the settlement were not divulged in the disclosure.

San Miguel president and chief operating officer Francisco C. Eizmendi Jr. said: "We accept the terms of the settlement and are pleased that this dispute has been speedily and amicably resolved."

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

P49.93 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 11, 2001

¥124.12 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 124.12 as of 5 p.m., April 11, 2001

GOLD:$257.40/257.90

per ounce Hong Kong, April 11, 2001

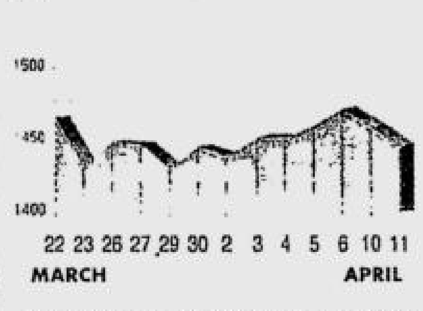
April 11, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.125619	1.000000	50.0170
Japan	Yen	0.009057	0.008046	0.4024
United Kingdom	Pound	1.611211	1.431400	71.5943
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144319	0.128213	6.4128
Switzerland	Franc	0.655191	0.582072	29.1135
Canada	Dollar	0.724057	0.643252	32.1735
Singapore	Dollar	0.621545	0.552181	27.6184
Australia	Dollar	0.557072	0.494903	24.7536
Bahrain	Dinar	2.985886	2.652661	132.6781
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.300141	0.266645	13.3368
Brunei	Dollar	0.618574	0.549541	27.4864
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000094	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.024712	0.021954	1.0981
UAE	Dirham	0.306466	0.272264	13.6178
Korea	Won	0.000845	0.000751	0.0376
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.888400	44.4351
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.454232	22.7193
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135436	6.7741
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.403138	20.1638
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064563	3.2292
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022023	1.1015
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000459	0.0230
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.149418	7.4734
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004431	0.2216
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005339	0.2670
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022023	1.1015
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.128035	56.4209

STOCK MARKET

Shares down 1%

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed one percent lower yesterday in thin trading with investors on the sidelines ahead of Easter holidays, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 14.23 points to close at 1,445.26.

"A lot of the investors opted out of the market. A lot of people are on vacation right now, it's the reason why we haven't seen that much volume," said Fitz Aclan of KGI Securities.

George Ching of Securities 2000 Inc. said investors "would rather stay liquid for the long weekend" but added some uptick could be expected ahead of the May 14 congressional elections.

"Historically, the market performs before the election season. People could start gettting into positions," he said.

Earlier, prices firmed on the back of Wall Street's rise on Tuesday but these gains were given up by the close as investors adopted a cautious approach and moved to close positions going into the holiday.

"Investors did not want to be caught (with large positions) before a long holiday and also Monday is the deadline for taxes," A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo said.

"However, we are bullish for next week . . . after the tax season prices usually move higher so hopefully our market will be resurrected," Del Castillo said.

Edison Yap, a fund manager with Equitable PCI Bank, said some technical corrections in a few key large caps weighed on the overall market.

AFP, Reuters

Budget deficit exceeds P38B

FINANCE Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday the government's budget deficit for the three months to March stood at P38.913 billion.

Romulo told reporters the deficit was the result of revenues worth about P117.25 billion and expenditure of around P156.2 billion.

The government's target deficit for the quarter was P48.552 billion, derived from expected revenues of P125.984 billion and expenditures of P174.536 billion.

The Philippines posted a budget deficit of P18.98 billion in the January-February period. The official deficit target for this year is P145 billion, against a 2000 budget deficit of P136.11 billion. *Reuters*

INTEREST RATES

DAILY STATISTICAL INDICATORS

April 11, 2001

PARTICULARS	Today	Previous Day	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Bangko Sentral R/P Rates (% p.a.) 1/ 11 April 2001					
Overnight R/P	12.2500	12.2500	12.2500	12.7500	11.0000
Term R/P	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.
Interbank Call Loan Rate (% p.a.) 10 April 2001					
Weighted Ave.	10.0625	O.H.	10.0938	10.6250	8.8750
High	10.1875	O.H.	10.2500	10.7500	9.0000
Low	10.0625	O.H.	10.0625	10.5625	8.8125
Promissory Note Rates (% p.a.) 2/ 10 April 2001					
60 Days	N.T.	O.H.	N.T.	N.T.	8.7345
90 Days	N.T.	O.H.	N.T.	N.T.	9.0000
180 Days	N.T.	O.H.	10.0000	N.T.	N.T.
Foreign Interest Rates (% p.a.)					
90-day LIBOR	4.7400	4.7400	4.8500	5.0300	6.2800
90-day SIBOR	4.7500	4.7300	4.8600	5.0400	6.2800
180-day LIBOR	4.5300	4.5200	4.6600	4.8900	6.5000
180-day SIBOR	4.5300	4.5300	4.6600	4.9200	6.5100

Crucifying Christ in the workplace

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

TOMORROW, we will ponder upon the crucifixion of our Lord. We should realize how each one of us helps drive a nail on His hands and feet as we angrily and hastily go about our jobs every single day.

In every boardroom in Makati or factory in Laguna and Cavite, in every workplace from Abra to Sarangani and Tawi-Tawi, managers and workers alike help in making Christ's sufferings more unbearable and cruel. As we continue to hurt each other in our insatiable thirst for power, prestige and pesos, we also continue to inflict more pain and anguish on the crucified convict from Nazareth. As we go on exploiting our workers and oppressing them, we go on causing deep disillusionment about the suffering Lord as He cries, seeing the least of his brethren being hapless victims of our injustice.

These managers and business owners who cheat their workers of minimum wages and basic benefits are often seen on TV preaching Christian values of love and compassion. Their glossy pictures are on the pages of society columns sponsoring fund-raising projects to help the poor, the marginalized and the dispossessed. The very same capitalists who rob workers of their food, who eject urban settlers from their shanties and who violate labor standards are the ones the media are building up as philanthropists and benefactors of Mother Teresa's welfare programs. What a hypocrisy?

Modern Scribes and Pharisees

Media practitioners who denounce shenanigans in high places are the ones practicing corruption in journalism whether in print or broadcast. Leading commentators in radio and TV who parade themselves as the civil society's advocates for good governance and clean government are themselves accepting bribe money to defend some firms, including besieged government-owned corporations, or prop-up the overly maligned image of a corrupt taipan. Columnists and editors who portray themselves as guardians of morality and ethics in public service are on the payroll of traditional politicians, moonlighting as PR consultants of notorious public officials. They are the modern Scribes masquerading as honorable members of the fourth estate who epitomize hypocrisy in its most despicable level. They crucify Christ in every column they write and every single minute of broadcast time.

Religious leaders who wear fancy garments to attract attention and use the Bible to advance their financial and political agenda also help in crucifying Christ. They come to you in sheep's clothing but they are wolves out to devour your dignity and honor. They exact money from the poor, the naïve and those who are utterly sick in the spirit seeking a respite from the harshness of life. Religious leaders who interfere in politics for partisan agenda. They who live in mansions where candidates come to ask their blessings and support. They who dispense political patronage for pay. They also crucify the Lord and they do it in style.

Woe unto the hypocrites

How vain are the businessmen who preach justice while committing the most unjust acts against their own workers. How untrue also are the workers who charge their employers of dishonesty while being dishonest in their work. How pretentious is the manager who badmouth his subordinate for tardiness and absenteeism when he himself is perennially late and truant. How hypocrite is the union leader who charges management of unfairness and harassment when he also treats his union members in the most unfair and threatening ways. These and many others crucify the Lord, too.

The union's officials who malverse their union funds are the ones accusing managers of dishonesty. The business managers who rob their own stockholders of their investments are the ones imposing harsh penalties for their workers' petty dishonesty. The board of directors who cheat the government of due taxes are the ones cheating their employees of due wages. The employees who defraud their customers are the ones complaining of being defrauded by their employers. The arbiters and commissioners who are supposed to punish the exploiters of labor and the oppressors of workers are the ones accepting bribes to justify such exploitation, such oppression. They are like Roman centurions who also help in the crucifixion.

All sorts of sinners

In the work place, we meet all kinds of sins, all sorts of sinners. They transform the temple of corporate work into a den of thieves and pretenses. There are scheming Judases who will sell the company for 30 pieces of silver. They are the promoters of treachery and betrayal. There are Mary Magdalenes who use their charms and guile to pursue their evil schemes and conspiracies. There are doubting Thomases who impute negative implications on the most positive corporate thrusts. There are Pilates who will wash their hands and abdicate responsibility for jobs they are supposed to perform. There are many Caiphases, Dimases and Estases among us.

We are all guilty

And all sorts of sins. Workers violate rules with impunity. They commit serious misconduct, immorality, sexual harassment, insubordination, fraud and violation of trusts. Workers come to the office drunk, they utter obscene words and quarrel with each other. They cheat their employers and steal company properties, from staple wires to heavy machines. They cheat customers and deprive them of proper quality of products. They cheat the government of correct taxes. They even cheat themselves and deny their own self-respect and dignity. All these inflict pains on the crucified Lord.

And so, let us not point accusing fingers at the sinners for the sinners are us. We are not with clean hands. We have no right to cast a stone. We are the ones crucifying our Savior. And we deserve to be the ones in the cross. *(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)*

Gokongweis to join $600-M petrochem project of PPDC

By Ronnel W. Domingo

JG SUMMIT Petrochemical Corp. has decided to participate in the government-led effort to put up a $600-million naphtha cracker plant in Bataan, PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corp. president Jose Gangan said.

Gangan said the Gokongwei firm was expected to join 10 other participating companies in signing the project's equity sharing agreement in June.

This development satisfies the Department of Trade and Industry's call for the industry to take a united effort in building only one naphtha cracker in the country. It said it would lobby for the exemption of the industry from the mandatory cut in tariff to a range of 0 to 5 percent by 2003 under the Asean Free Trade Area if only one naphtha cracker would be built.

It is not certain if JG Summit would drop its own naphtha cracker project which was earlier registered with the Board of Investments for incentives.

The industry's raw materials or monomers are charged a higher tariff of 15 percent compared to the 7 percent to 10 percent slapped on polymers.

The DTI is also pushing for the passage of the proposed amendments to the Omnibus Investments Code, which would enable petrochemical firms to enjoy up to 12 years of tax holiday.

Malacañang had promised to grant the petrochemical industry favorable tariff protection for up to 10 years to generate additional investments of $1.44 billion, create up to 250,000 new jobs, and realize foreign exchange savings of as much as $300 million yearly.

The government believes that one cracker is enough to meet current and future demand of the local petrochemical industry and to ensure the project's viability.

JG Summit, which in 1999 had deferred plans to build its own naphtha cracker, had been reluctant to join the consortium without a pricing parity since its polyethylene and polypropylene plants are in Batangas.

PNOC-PDC, which is taking a 34-percent stake in the project, has committed to start the development of the naphtha cracker this year to meet the 2003 completion target.

The facility will have a capacity of between 350,000 and 500,000 tons a year.

Without a naphtha cracker, the local petrochemical industry is totally dependent on imported raw materials.

Extelcom debt restructuring plan nears completion

By Anthony O. Alcantara

EXPRESS Telecommunications Philippines Inc. will present to its board this month its P2-billion debt restructuring plan for approval.

Extelcom president Advinculo Quiblat yesterday said the terms and conditions of the restructuring program were being finalized.

"I cannot reveal the details because they might still be changed," Quiblat said.

The company has resumed debt restructuring negotiations with its creditors after suspending the talks amid the political turmoil that hit the country late last year up to January this year.

He said the restructuring talks would likely be completed by the middle of the year. Extelcom owes local creditors about P1.3 billion. Foreign lenders account for the balance.

Extelcom first vice president Felipe Gozon said in an earlier interview that the company would need some P5 billion to P10 billion for the initial rollout of its digital cellular phone network.

However, the project would depend on the outcome of Extelcom's debt-restructuring negotiations and the resolution of shareholder issues.

Gozon said Bayan Telecommunications Inc.'s refusal to divest from or increase its equity in Extelcom had hampered debt-restructuring negotiations earlier.

"The plan called for Bayantel to increase its capital or for it to sell out," Gozon said.

However, Bayantel refused to sell out of Extelcom mainly because of shareholder and pricing issues. The Lopez-owned company wrote off its P6-billion investment in Extelcom as the venture failed to take off.

It also did not help that Extelcom successfully prevented Bayantel from setting up its own cellular phone business by filing a case against Bayantel and the National Telecommunications Commission with the Court of Appeals.

Bayantel is set to submit its appeal to the Supreme Court.

How bu
FULLY

ROTARY PICKS NEXTEL

Nextel chair Antonio M. Urera hands over to Rotary District 3810 governor Richard Marquez the agreement designating Nextel Communications Philippines as the official communications provider of the Rotary International 3810 during its district gathering at the Manila Hotel on March 8 to 10. The signing of the agreement was witnessed by from left: Henry Aguda, Nextel vice president; Edison C. Ong, Rotary 3810 vice president-elect; Abdon B. Buensalida, Rotary 3810 past president; Ricky U. Uy, Rotary 3810 president-elect; Ernesto Y. Choa, Rotary 3810 president, and Reynaldo M. Cristobal, Rotary 3810 past president.

World growth . . .

(From page B1)

economies are not expected to do as well as they did last year.

The 275-page report said developing country growth would depend heavily on the performance of the thee big industrialized economies—the United States, Japan and the 15-nation European Union.

For all these economies, the report foresees "near term weakness and fairly rapid recovery by the end of 2001/early 2002."

It says the EU economies are likely to prove most resilient to the slowdown while in Japan growth has reverted to an anemic pace and the prospects for outright recession have increased.

Growth prospects for Latin America differ markedly from country to country. Mexico, which sends 75 to 80 percent of its exports to the United States, is likely to be most affected by the slowdown in the United States. Brazil and Argentina, which trade more with Europe, will not be hurt as much, the report said. *AP*

Foreign IT firm . . .

(From page B1)

in its marketing efforts.

The project is expected to generate 2,074 new jobs and P1.9 billion in total revenues over the next five years. It can handle 187,400 transactions a year and is expected to start commercial operations in the second half of this year.

Innodata is aiming to be a large-volume, high quality creator of XML-compliant information resources that will cater to the needs of electronic information providers, publishers, and owners of e-commerce content who need to create and manage large-scale XML repositories.

Its services include quality assurance measures such as editorial screening, statistical quality audits and software-based parsing.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, April 11, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69.5	69.5	50,200
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	46.5	47.5	46.5	47	35,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	219	219	212	214	195,760
Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	59,500
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	18.25	18.5	22,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	30	29.5	30	72,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1190	1200	1190	1200	1,480
Sun Life Financial Serv.	945	945	945	945	10
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	43	43	39	39	97,300
Diversified Fin. Network	9.6	9.6	9.3	9.3	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.46	4,110,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	650	650	650	100
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	1,200,000
Piltel	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	150,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	705	705	695	695	61,270
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.042	0.043	0.041	0.042	63,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42.5	42.5	42	42.5	39,300
Manila Electric Co. B	58	59.5	58	59	415,800
Petron Corp.	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.88	7,383,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.16	4,521,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.4	0.41	0.35	0.41	700,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	9,842,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30	30	30	30	186,300
RFM Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	395,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	10,000
San Miguel Corp. B	50.5	50.5	50	50	67,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con'Res & Hdg A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	80,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	189,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.3	2,234,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.5	12	12.25	1,800
APC Group Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	205,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	80,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.74	1.82	1.7	1.72	10,421,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	40,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.0725	0.115	0.0725	0.115	100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.08	1.08	708,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	57,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.25	.0.25	0.25	0.25	1,790,000
Ionics Inc.	11	11	11	11	24,400
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.02	1.94	1.94	1,582,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	910,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	1,670,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0 3	0.3	0.29	0 29	650,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0 09	0.09	0.09	0.09	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.89	0.89	0.87	0.87	510,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	12	12	12	12,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0 6	0.6	0 55	0.55	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.4	0.44	0.4	0.43	4,370,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	70,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	460,000
Philippine Racing Club	4	4	4	4	10,000,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	42.5	42.5	39	39.5	849,400
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	130,000
Jollibee Warrants	12	12.25	12	12.25	505,300
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	41,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	5,400
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.014	0.014	0.01	0.01	2,400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.6	1,697,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	760,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.33	0.34	2,310,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	910,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.24	2.18	2.18	5,473,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	160,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	3,363,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	260,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	700,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0048	0.0044	0.0048	14,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,400,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	120,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	437,950	53,911,245.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	174,677,670	344,960,250.00
PRO	14,673,000	45,670,100.00
Mining	20,960,000	248,600.00
OIL	19,660,000	137,600 00
GRAND TOTALS:	230,408,620	444,927,795.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	593.87	UP 0.97
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,960.97	DOWN 13.40
PRO	557.64	DOWN 15.16
Mining	1,079.34	DOWN 11.87
OIL	1.60	UP 0.10
All Shares Index	723.41	UP 7.51
Composite	1,445.26	DOWN 14.23

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 27; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 79; NO. OF TRADES: 2,031

DISCLOSURES

THE REDEMPTION of **Ayala Corp.**'s convertible preferred "B" shares will be on April 30 in favor of stockholders of record as of April 23. Redemption price was set at the par value of P1 per share plus a dividend adjustment equivalent to 18.23 percent of the par value.

* * *

SEMIRARA Mining Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 30, 10 a.m. at the 3/F Dacon Bldg., Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 2 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

DMCI Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May 9 to June 27.

* * *

APEX Mining Co. Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from April 25 to June 27 at 9 a.m.

* * *

WILLIAM, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 24, 10 a.m. at Cebu Plaza.

* * *

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. announced that its main banking facility would be transferred to the Yuchengco Tower RCBC Plaza on April 16.

* * *

ALSONS Cement Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 20, 9 a.m. at the Ballroom 3 of New World Hotel, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of March 20 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

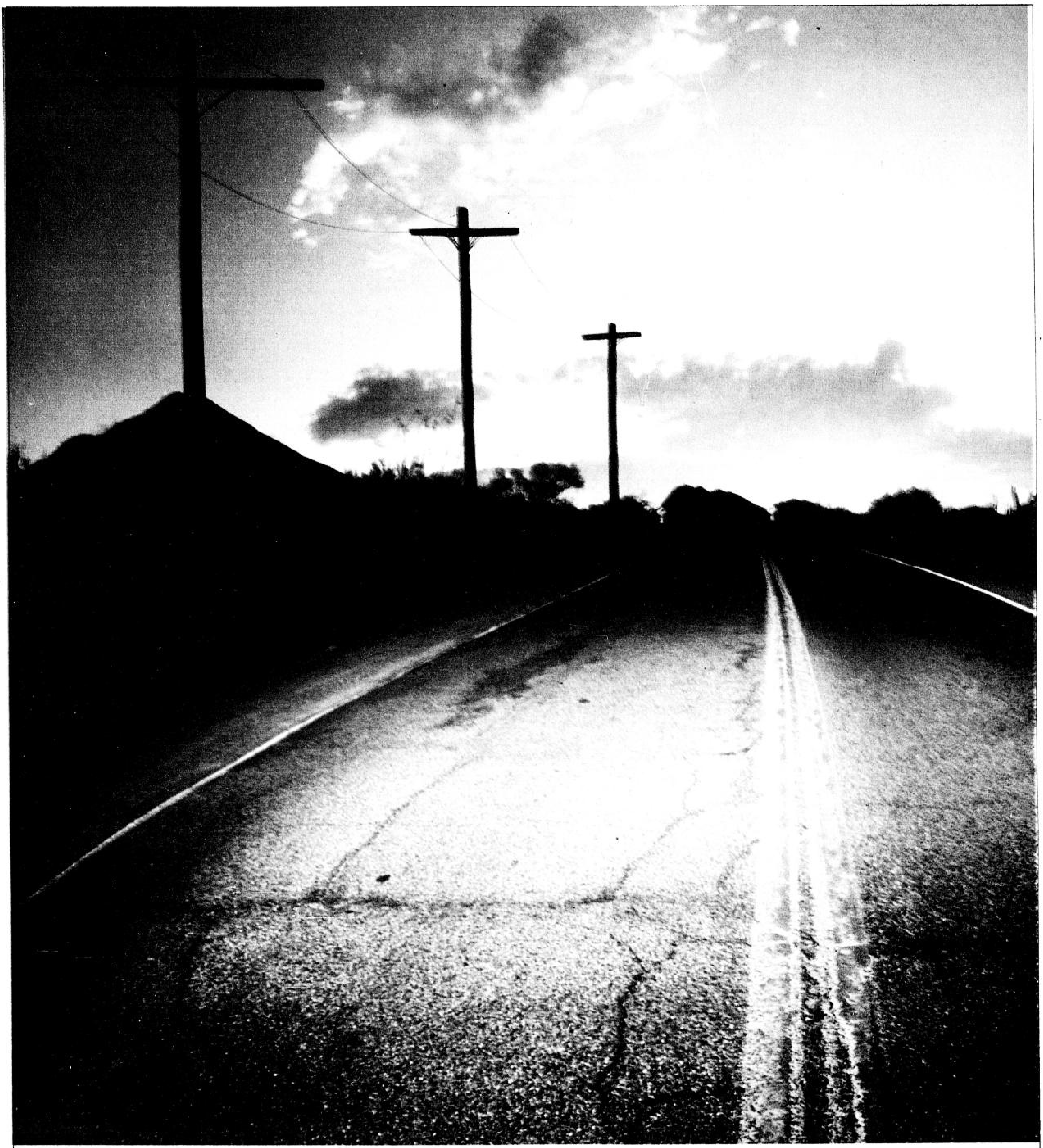
BACNOTAN Consolidated Industries Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 19, 2:30 p.m. at the Manila A & B Room of Shangri-La Hotel Makati. Only stockholders of record as of March 20 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

SM Prime Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 26, 2 p.m. at the Rizal C Ballroom of Shangri-La Hotel Makati. Only stockholders of record as of March 27 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

UNION Cement Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 19, 5 p.m. at the Rizal Ballroom A of Shangri-La Hotel Makati. Only stockholders as of March 20 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***



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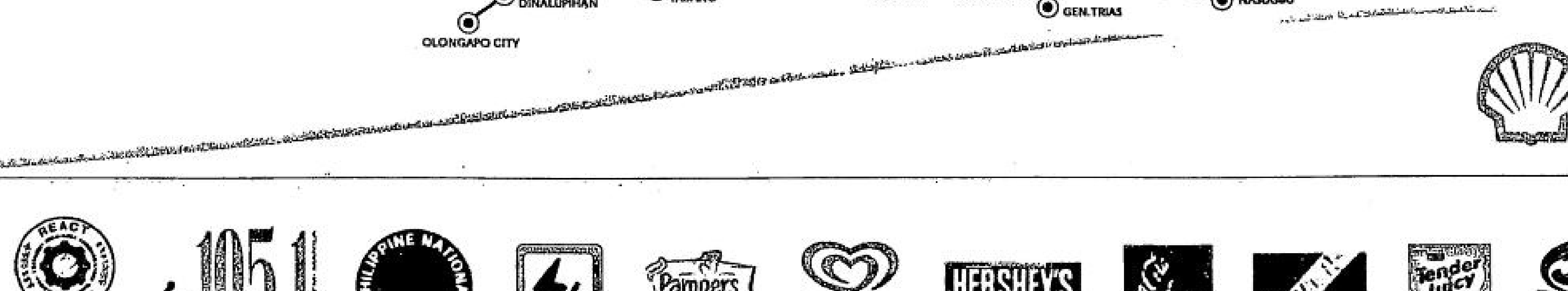
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1Hectares Bulacan Rdy 4 Piggery P3.5M 9281469

OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M ownrlvng neg0917-8143792

LOT

LAS PINAS

BFR Rush 414 5T 526 5.2 5T 343 5.5ST 169 8726951

MANILA

A. Mabini VAC LOT 488m² @P50K/m² 8440130 Rosie

A.Mabini - Vac. Lot. 488m² @50K/m² nice 8440130

Vito Cruz 909m² @ 50K/m² VL nr Stadium 8440130

MARIKINA

Marikina East 814m² VAC Mor Sun 16K/m² 8440130

MUNTINLUPA

Hillsborough Area 450sqm P4M 655-4556 • 655-9393

PARANAQUE

Tahanan-Vac Lot 280sqm @12K/sqm • 844-0130

Maywood 288m² VAC LOT @7500/m² 8440130

•MAYWOOD 288m² VL P7500/m² 888-5007

QUEZON CITY

**Neopolitan Ph6 P4500/m² 300m² w/Fence 671-4421

**Only P1.3M Leland Dr. Novaliches 671-4421

2.5Has Resdl Lot Ideal Twnhse Devt QC 937-1536

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

4.5Has Resdl VL Cheap Diliman QC • 937-1536

Loyola Grand 600m² @ P8500 Call 09185079799

Nr New York 400m² 20T Neg No Flood 6453731

QC 15th Ave 500m² 25T Neg Facing East 6453731

SFDM QC 519sqm w/Imp. 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

RIZAL

300m² Palos Verdes Antipolo Very Cheap • 937-1536

Imelda Ave 464sqm Comm'l 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Kingsville Hills Area 120sqm P3T/sqm 655-9393, 655-4556

Montevista Hgts. Area: 140sqm P4,000/sqm 655-9393

Montevista Hts Area: 179sqm 3,900/m² 655-9393 • 655-4556

RESDENTIAL LOT
Montevideo Subd. Bo. Mambog Binangonan 289m² P2,300/m² Julius 651-1004

San Martin Subd. Area: 240m² 2,500/m² 655-9393 • 655-4556

Taytay 1H Tikling 3.3/2 Nice Flat w'Road 6453731

Taytay 1Ha. Comm'l Nat'l Rd 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Village East Area 387sqm 4,500/m² 655-9393, 655-4556

Village East Binangonan 203m² cor. 5313742

With Old House Area 426sqm P3M • 655-9393 / 655-4556

SAN JUAN

Ghills North 750-960m² 723-2391; 0917-3848111

Little Baguio 300-500m² 723-2391; 0917-3848111

San Juan Lit Baguio 450m² Good 4 Wrhse 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

**Pampanga 27H Alng Mc Arthur H-way 220/m² 681-2457

Baguio Subd. LOT w/Pine Trees Tel. 5313742

CALAMBA HILLS SUB-DIV. MAYAPA, CALAMBA, LAGUNA CORNER LOT 311m² NEAR SCHOOL 09192800275

Cityland, Paliparan Farmlots 791m² 668m² (adjoining) 6559393

Colbella Homes Tanauan Batangas 3Lots 5313742

Fort Magsaysay 18Has Resd'l P450m² 5313742

Grand Victoria N. Ecija 4 Lots 5313742

Sherwood Cavite 345m² B11 L3 Call 723-2391

Tagaytay 2Adj Lots 780 805m² Call 723-2391

Tagaytay Country Homes I 135m² 3,200/m² 9283267

Tagaytay Royale w/Share 447m² Cor Lot 6337601-03

Tagaytay w/View 5802sqm P2000/sqm • 633-7601-03

Villa Segovia Sta Rosa 2 corner LOTS 5313742

OTHER AREAS

AYALA
GREENFIELD ESTATES
AYALA WESTGROVE
STA ROSA 7T/350sqm & UP
FILINVEST BRENTVILLE
A FIRST CLASS SUBD. Where Brent Intl Sch is loc
. ANTIPOLO/TAGYTAY LOT 4T/M² CALL SHIE
911-7143 / 0917-4233096

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

**Rockwell 3 Units 2Brs Fast Selling 671-4421

3 Salcedo 3Br 9155177

LeGrand Salcedo Vill. 2BR ful furn 6.3M 6312021

•Le Domain PH 102m² 2BR 1carpk 5.9M Tel 412-1825

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

A/R Greenbelt 1-3BR 7Mup 4121825 / 09177914366

MANILA

BAY GARDEN
Alg Roxas Blvd. 7438550

MANDALUYONG

Wack² Twin 2br FA145 Fcing Gll Crse Call 723-2391

WACKWACK THomes 93 sqm 2BR 3.2M 531-2021 • 0917-3955738

PASIG

**Renaissance Ortigas 1-3Br Rush Sale 6812457

Emerald Mansion 3BR 6M w/ 1Carpk Call 412-1825

•TEKTITE 111M² 4.5M Rush 110m²@280/m² 412-1825

Office Condo Ortigas 38Th /m² Cell 09174149898

Renaissance 3000 2Bdrms 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

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**Blueridge Like Bnew 250m² 3Br 2Cg 671-4421

El Jardin Bohol Ave QC 2 Studios 1Cg Call 915-5177

Kamias 3Dr 12M 9155177

Atherton 3.9M 3BR Bnew 4121825 / 09177914366

Nr Ateneo LA72 FA149 3br 2tb Nr Nice 6453731

Scout Thses 4-7M Nice 3Stry 9283267 9283267

SAN JUAN

Annapolis Greenhills 2-3 BR 7-8M 9283267

Condo 3BR 137 P4M Call 723-2391

Ghills 3br P5.5M w/ Huge Blcny Call 723-2391

Ghills Anapolis FA130 Ofc / Res 2Br P3.8M 723-2391

Ghills Anapolis Condo 3br P9-11M 723-2391

Ghills Ofc Condo 70m² w/Prkng FFur P32M 723-2391

Greenhills Condo 1BR FA 70 ,P3M 723-2391

Greenhills Eisenhower St., 3br P6-8M Call 723-2391

Greenhills Ofc 70²m w/Prkng P31M 723-2391

Nr G'Hills LA67 FA200 3br 7M 2Cg Nice 6453731

San Juan Thse FA289 3br Attic P11.5M 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

Europa Condo FA171sqm Price P4M • 655-9393

OTHER AREAS

Condotel Facing L. Taal P1.1M Praise 7532532/33

MEMORIAL LOT

**Heritage Park Now Open Lawn Estates 671-4421

RESORT

**BF Resort Vill Las Pinas 276m² @ 5500 8749075

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Fantasy World M. Share Praise Realty 7532532/33

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Fontana Share 200T 9283267 / 141210187

FACTORY/WHSE

San Juan 1573m²whse off@ 23K/m² 8440130

**Ugong Bul Whse L3774 Tel 9281469 / 4534877

FARM/FISHPEN

21Has Mango Orchard & Resort Bataan • 937-1536

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

Apt 2BR beside Makati Municipal Hall T-8103019

MANILA

1BR strong H20 w/grge, tel. nr P. Gil St. 5642878/5640603/5634007

2401&C Laura St. Pandacan 8.5T & 10T Alan 8184277

Apt. nr LaSalle 8992148

MANDALUYONG

APT w/Grge Tel 7T 5357293

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

10B Malumanay Sikatuna 3BR/2BR 15T ALAN 8184277

RIZAL

RENT 2 OWN Country Homes Cainta P9T/mo. 656-6491

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Mkt Asia Tower 1-2-3Br 7518342 6337601-03

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manila@cbre.com

PASIG

VVerde 6 3Brs w/Attic P35T/mo 6337601-03

SAN JUAN

Eisenhower Comm'l Unit 83.80m² 5313742

FOR LEASE

1-3 Hec P50-70/m² With Bldg Cell 0917-4149898

Mindanao Ave. nr Cong'l 1400m² lot with 400m² warehse Call 9291863

ROOM & BOARD

Rm4Rent Mktl 8992148

BUSINESS RENTAL

**Antel Global 142m² 350/m² Call 6812457

**JMT BLdg 318m² at 280/m² Call 6812457

**Taipan Ortigas 129m² Call 681-2457

**Tektite 101m² Up at 300/m² Call 6812457

70m² Roosevelt Ave. 2C 438-3970; 0917-7914379

● PSE-TEKTITE ●
50m² FF 631-4648 / 57

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

'98 MB100D P385 7313492

HYUNDAI

'98 258T '94 205T Grace 7313492

KIA

'98 BESTA P245T 7313492

'98 PREGIO P340T 7313492

BUSES/TRUCKS

Japan: ELF Canter Suzuki T-Ace Bongo Porter D/Side Al-Van FB P60Tup9126976

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

4931802 MB&Van9344988

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

H-100 Van/Honda 920-7360

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

MB100 HiAceL300 2973807

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STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

Car Vans 4535288/9296250

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2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

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Computer P15T 435-2335

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MALE/FEMALE

IMMIGRATE
LIVE and WORK in Canada Australia 8175511/8944950

RE Broker 292-6137

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN FR HOME 8531008/5252230

RTW Cash/Consign 373-8821

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.
Tel. 893-1320 loc. 5115 Fax 815-4216

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as MEDIUM A in Electrical Works or General Building-Building and Industrial Plants to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the
LEYTE Rural Electrification Project
Stage 7, Schedule 2 (16 Barangays),
under Bid/Project No. EDC 01-052

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to the 16 Barangays situated in the Towns of Bato, Baybay, Hilongos, and Matalom, Leyte.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o I.M. Corcuera) starting **April 10, 2001**, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100.00).

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of **April 24, 2001.**

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **May 9, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **May 23, 2001**, 8:30 a.m. at the Leopard Beach Resort, Hilongos, Leyte. Site inspection to follow thereafter.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of **May 31, 2001** and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder(s) whose bid(s) is(are) considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) **NAZARIO C. VASQUEZ**
President

(PDI – April 10 & 12, 2001)

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone 893-1320 loc. 5115 Fax 815-4216

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as SMALL B in Electrical Works or General Building - Building and Industrial Plants to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the
NEGROS ORIENTAL Rural Electrification Project
Stage 1 (5 Barangays)
under Bid/Project No. EDC 00-184R

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to the 5 Barangays situated in the Towns of Guihulngan, Jimalalud, Manjuyod, and Tayasan, Negros Oriental.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o I. M. Corcuera) starting April 10, 2001, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100.00).

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of April 24, 2001.

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting May 9, 2001 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on May 16, 2001, 8:30 a.m. at the 4th Floor, OK Pension House, Sta. Rosa St., Dumaguete City. Site inspection to follow thereafter.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of May 29, 2001 and then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder(s) whose bid(s) is(are) considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) NAZARIO C. VASQUEZ
President

(PDI - Apr 12 & 20, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSS. FREE DEMO 2553584/2537617

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of Miguel Perido Jr. was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc. 49 Page 10 Book I Series 2001 of Notary Public Edwin A. Quilates of Quezon City PDI-March31April7&12,2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice of loss of ICR# 032503 issued to Muamar Surawidarto on 12/23/99

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

THANK YOU PAPA JESUS

THANK YOU MAMA MARY

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATE BY P0.48/KWH ACROSS-THE-BOARD WITH PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERB CASE NO. 2001-20

IBAAN ELECTRIC AND ENGINEERING CORPORATION,
Applicant.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant Ibaan Electric and Engineering Corporation (IEEC) on March 16, 2001 of an application for authority to increase its rates by P0.48/KWH across-the-board with prayer for provisional relief.

The Board has set the said application for hearing on April 23 and 24, 2001 at nine o'clock (9:00 AM), in the morning at the ERB Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of initial hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Board their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings may request that before the date of initial hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with this Board during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable MELINDA L. OCAMPO, Chairman and Honorables ALBERTO D. DOSAYLA, OSCAR F. ALA, NICOMEDES B. DEYNATA and MARIETTA U. LARRACAS, Members, Energy Regulatory Board the 27th day of March 2001 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) ARNIDO O. INUMERABLE
Executive Director

(PDI – April 11 & 12, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Province of Negros Oriental
Dumaguete City 6200
Philippines

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental, in coordination with the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital-Integrated Provincial Health Office, is inviting DOH Accredited suppliers and exclusive distributors to pre-qualify and to bid in the acquisition of the following, viz:

A. HOSPITAL DRUGS & MEDICINES, HLMD SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND DEVICES
B. HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
  1) Tread Mill Machine with Stress Test System
  2) Radiographic Units
  3) Anesthesia Machine
  4) Incubator
  5) Programmable Electro-Surgical Unit
  6) Craniotomy Set
  7) Water Bath

Interested suppliers are requested to pre-qualify and to submit sealed bids on the above using the TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM. The list of pre-qualification requirements together with the bid documents will be issued only upon presentation by the supplier of his/her original DOH Certificate of Supplier's Accreditation and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Hundred Fifty (P250.00) Pesos.

For pre-qualification and bidding purposes, the following schedule will be observed:

APRIL 25, 2001 9:30 AM	- Pre-Bid Conference and issuance of pre-qualification requirements and bid documents at the NOPH Social Hall Provincial Hospital Compound, Dumaguete City
MAY 7, 2001 9:30 AM	- Submission and opening of bids for HOSPITAL DRUGS & MEDICINES, HLMD SUPPLIES, MATERIALS & DEVICES at the NOPH Social Hall, Provincial Hospital Compound, Dumaguete City.
May 16, 2001 9:30 AM	- Submission and opening of bids for HOSPITAL & MEDICAL EQUIPMENT at the NOPH Social Hall Provincial Hospital Compound, Dumaguete City

All bids must be accompanied by a Bidder's Bond of at least Five Percent (5%) of the total amount of the tender or offer either in cash, manager's check or cashier's check but shall not exceed Twenty Thousand (P20,000.00) Pesos per bid proposal.

Notwithstanding this announcement, the Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Technical Committee is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) GEORGE P. ARNAIZ
Governor of Negros Oriental

Tel. Nos. 225-4635 / 225-1691 / 225-2848 / 225-3525 FAX: 225-4635

(PDI – April 12, 2001)

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ATTY. NARCISO N. MIRABUENO, SR.

October 29, 1919 - April 6, 2001
of Itbayat, Batanes and General Santos City

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 6, 2001 at the age of 81.

His bereaved wife **Triposa**; children **Carmelita** and **Haig**, **Orlando** and **Mergyl**, **Margarita** and **Reynaldo**, **Vicente** (✞) and **Aurora**, **Lilia**, **Myrna**, **Edna** and **Pedro**, **Cecilia** and **Antonio**, **Narciso Jr.**, and **Elizabeth**, **Ma. Teresa** and **Rowell**, **Robert**, **Cesar** and **Joyce**; grandchildren, sister **Mamerta Ruiz**; and brother **Mariano**; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence in Santiago Village, Lagao, General Santos City.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 15, 2001 at the San Carlos Memorial Park, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Church, Lagao, General Santos City.

SO HAN SHUI

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 10, 2001.

His loving wife **Soledad Chi-Seng So** (†); children **Aquilino** (†) and **Therese Sha**, **Albino** (Abroad), **Alfredo** and **Maria Luisa Arce**, **Alice** and **Thomas Decker** (Abroad), **Alexander** and **Malou Chua**; grandchildren **Patrick**, **Michael**, **Richard**, **Stephen**, **Dexter**, **Brian**, **Stephanie**, **Nicole**; great grandchildren **Kyle**, **Mark**, **Keanu**, **Mian**, **Liam**, **Ali**; sister, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Magallanes Chapel, Magallanes Vill., Makati City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, April 14, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. at the Loyola Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati City.

ADRIANO R. CABALU

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 9, 2001
at the age of 73.

His wife **MILAGROS**; children and in-laws **Jose** and **Didin**, **Zita**, **Lino** (†), **Cris**, **Helen** and **Arnel**, **Ronald** and **Yen**, **Liza** and **Tom**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until April 13, 2001 and will be transferred to the Enriquez Funeral Homes, F. Tañedo St., Tarlac City on April 14, 2001.

Interment will be at the Eternal Memorial Park, Tarlac City, April 15, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

DEMETRIA BAQUIRAN VDA. DE LINGAN

Died on the Grace of our Lord
on April 9, 2001 at the age of 82.

Her bereaved children **Narcing & Pepay**, **Linda & Angel**, **Benny & Sally**, **Tony & Jullie**, **Azon & Andy** and **Mena & Manding**; brothers & sisters, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Villanueva residence at Pamacal Village, Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

Interment will be on April 18, 2001 at Solana Cagayan Cemetery at 7:00 a.m.

ELSIE E. BUARON

June 01, 1940
Joined her Creator on April 7, 2001.

Her bereaved children **Recio**, **Sonia** and **Elton**; daughter-in-laws **Carmelita** and **Angelita**; grandchildren **Allan**, **Billy Joel**, **Katherine Ann**, **Elton Angelo**, **Ellaine Angelique** and **Elaisha Ann**; brothers and sisters **Josefina**, **Pedro**, **Milagros**, **Martin Fructuoso**, **Nonito**, **Nenita**, **Leonardo**, **Fe** and **Nestor**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Interment will be on Thursday, April 12, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Holy Cross, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.

In Loving Memory
On the 1st Death Anniversary
of

JULIO A. MENDOZA

who passed away on April 15, 2000.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches on April 15, 2001:

National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians Parish *Better Living Subd., Parañaque City*	7:00 AM Mass
Miraculous Medal National Shrine Parish *Posadas Village, Sucat, Muntinlupa City*	9:00 AM Mass
Parish of St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	9:00 AM Mass
San Isidro Labrador Parish *San Isidro, Batangas City*	7:00 AM Mass
Our Lady of Immaculate Concepcion *Batangas City*	6:00 AM Mass
Sto. Niño Parish *Pandacan, Manila*	9:30 AM Mass
Our Lady of Good Voyage Parish *Antipolo, Rizal*	9:00 AM and 12 noon Masses
St. John Bosco Parish *Arnaiz St., Makati City*	8:45 AM Mass

The family request relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

> We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.
>
> *2 Cor. 4:14*

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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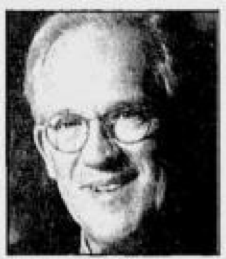
Highest Philips official arriving in Manila



BOONSTRA

COR Boonstra, top ranking official of Philips Electronics Worldwide, will make a short visit to Manila on April 15 and 16.

During his visit, he will attend a charity event for 100 street children from Caritas Manila sponsored by Philips Philippines.

Included in his itinerary is a tropical gala dinner for Philips key dealers, business partners, and government officials from the trade and industry sector. Boonstra will also meet with the company employees at the Philips semiconductor plant in Calamba, Laguna and possibly pay a courtesy call to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Boonstra was designated president and chief executive officer of Philips Electronics Worldwide in Oct. 1996. Earlier, he served as the executive vice president for two years and was later appointed CEO of Philips Lighting. A brilliant manager, Boonstra held several executive positions prior to Philips, including a stint as president of Sara Lee Corporation.

Under Boonstra's leadership, Philips refocused its core businesses globally and strengthened its brand in the United States. He was recently honored by the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce in the United States with a George Washington Vanderbilt Award. The award recognized Philips' achievement and contribution to trade and investment between the two countries.

In the Philippines, Philips is known as one of the country's top export earners with more than US$500 million in export sales of semiconductors last year. Philips Semiconductors Philippines, Inc., a Philips company, employs some 5,500 workers in Laguna and will provide more employment by midyear upon completion of an additional building at the Light Industry and Science Park special economic zone.

Industry observers said the Philips Group of Companies in the Philippines has shown remarkable financial and market share growth during the past few years. However, it is expected that Philips will experience lower exports in the first few months this year due to the economic downturn in the chip markets in the United States.

Boonstra's visit is a sign that Philips Electronics Worldwide considers the Philippines as a market with great potential for Philips products.

MALANG HONORED

Mauro Malang-Santos receives from J. Walter Thompson Manila the fund for a Fine Arts scholarship in his honor. In photo (from left) are Randi Lorica, finance director; Mark Webster, managing director; Miles Colebrook, JWT International group president; Malang and Robert Labayen, executive creative director. This was a highlight during the formal opening of JWT's new offices at the prestigious Enterprise Center.

JGC granted BOI pioneer status for IT-based EPC

THE Board of Investments has approved the pioneer-status application of JGC Philippines for its new activity which covers the entire engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) phases of a project using the latest information technology (IT) systems.

JGC Philippines, incorporated 1989 and owned by Japanese business giants JGC Corp. and Marubeni Corporation, has been engaged in providing engineering services (front-end engineering design and detailed engineering) for its clients. Last year, it expanded its business scope to cover the entire development phases of a project from its inception to its execution—the so-called EPC stages. It is the first among EPC companies to use many of the engineering-related software such as JGC PMS, PDS, PDMS, X-Steel and J Dome. The use of such software by JGC Philippines is foreseen to contribute to its efficiency, making engineering services competitive in the global market.

JGC Philippines' EPC services will entail a project cost of P372 million which includes office building construction, software technology and hardware acquisition.

The BOI pioneer status entitles JGC Philippines to a six-year income tax holiday as well as other fiscal perks.

Inteltech Resources, MyPhilippines.com ink MOA

REPRESENTATIVES of Inteltech Resources, Inc. and MyPhilippines.com, Inc. signed a memorandum of agreement last March. The MOA gives MyPhilippines.com users access to the job search services of Inteltech's hanap-buhay.com. The agreement likewise involves content sharing, banner exchanges, and other links between the two dotcoms.

Hanap-buhay.com is one of the fastest growing online job resources today. It serves as a crossroads for job-seekers and employers in Asia by providing a database of applicants' resumés and companies' job vacancies. The site also features other career opportunities and is the service division of Inteltech Resources, Inc. The company aims to provide a convenient, one-stop shop for all corporate web-related requirements.

MyPhilippines.com, Inc. is a new media company with a clear mission of providing the very best in Filipino-interest content, community and commerce services over the Internet via its portal MyPhilippines.com. The site is the most comprehensive directory for Philippine-interest web sites with over 25,000 links and is the only Filipino search engine powered by AltaVista technology.

National Sports Grill treats 2001 graduates

GRADUATES of 2001 looking for a place to celebrate will find National Sports Grill the perfect place as it offers not only food but also fun and sports – the right combination for parties for the young.

National Sports Grill, a five-level dining and entertainment place at the Greenbelt cinema area, provides for the perfect ambience for a graduation party as guests can enjoy privacy without losing the atmosphere of a highly energetic sports bar.

The restaurant has 30 television monitors installed all over the place for the airing of live and classic sporting events, plus an 84-inch Jumbotron at the bar. Sports memorabilia gathered from all over the world are displayed everywhere and can be enjoyed while dining.

Aside from its graduation banquet, National Sports Grill will also treat fresh graduates to one whole pepperoni pizza for free until April 30. Simply present your school identification card proving you are a member of Batch 2001 or your diploma, then you can get to enjoy National Sports Grill's famous special pepperoni pizza.

Aside from its graduation treats, National Sports Grill is also offering a special summer menu fit for weight watchers and those avoiding meat this Lenten Season.

Try any or all four summer specials: Calamari Champions, Salmon Schumacher Pasta, Ahi Tuna Caesar and Montreal Olympic Salmon and enjoy your meal without the guilt. This menu will be available until April 30.

For those who already have their favorites at the National Sports Grill, all other food in the regular menu are also being served.

Art education workshops in Manila, Cebu

THE BRITISH Council, in cooperation with Miriam College and the University of San Carlos in Cebu, will hosts a two-part workshop series on art education featuring Professor Sandra Ewing of the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland as resource speaker. From April 16 to 20, Ewing will address groups from Manila at Miriam College. She then flies to Cebu to work with Visayan groups from April 23 to 27.

The workshops are designed to provide in-service training for elementary art teachers, to assist them in preparing course content by better understanding visual vocabularies.

Ewing aims to help workshop participants develop a formal language for teaching art, based on visual elements of line, tone and shape. By applying this new art vocabulary to the expression of ideas and feeling, teachers can enhance learning skills of their students.

For inquiries about the workshop, please call Lulu Samson at the Humanities Department of Miriam College (927-2421) or email her at lksamson@info.com.ph.

TELECOM
ISLA COMMUNICATIONS CO., INC.

GLOBE, ISLACOM SIGN AGREEMENTS

Globe Telecom, Inc. and its principal shareholders Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom International Pte. Ltd. (STI) recently signed a series of agreements with Asiacom Philippines, Inc. and DeTeAsia Holding GmbH, a wholly owned subsidiary of Deutsche Telekom AG, to facilitate the acquisition of Isla Communications, Co. (Islacom) by Globe Telecom, Inc. Shown during the signing were (from left) Globe Telecom president and CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza, Jr., DeTeAsia president Axel Hass, Ayala Corp. president Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Singapore Telecom executive vice president Lee Shin Koi and Asiacom president and CEO Delfin Lazaro.

REBAP-PASIG INDUCTS OFFICERS

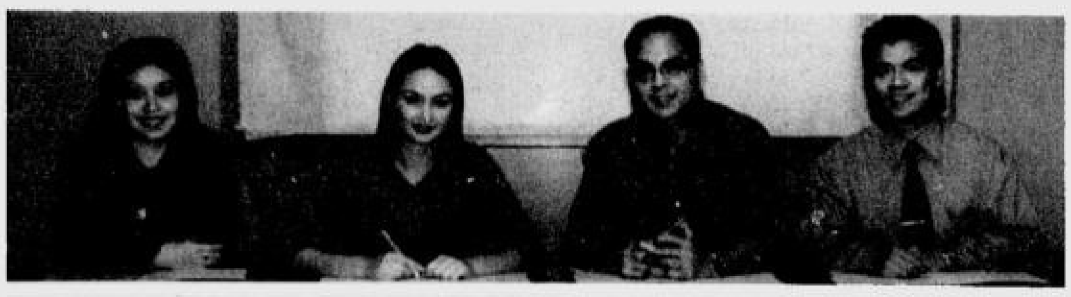
The millennium directors and officers of the Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines (Rebap) – Pasig Chapter pose after the induction and turnover ceremonies held at Limits Restaurant and Coffee Shop, Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas Center last November. Shown in picture (from left) CP Roger Arambulo, Nanett Sinco, Billie Pilar, Arlene Araullo, Romy Judan, PP Fred Ruiz, national representative; Cherith Domingo; president Lito Nebre; Rudy Tan; Annie Mojica, Pen Cortez and PP Albert Dela Torre.

KFC OPENS AT ROCKWELL

Ready to satisfy the cravings of the busy and mobile urbanite crowd, KFC recently opened its newest store at the concourse level of The Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center. The affair also coincided with the store opening of its sister company Mister Donut Café located beside the new KFC store. Leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony were (from left) Mister Donut officers area manager Edith Pile and franchise management head Myrna Uy, KFC officers business development manager Ankur Narain, Rockwell restaurant manager Pinky Salvador, area manager Cathy Cruz and Profit Center manager Linda Jalandoni.

PRELATE MEETING

Special Presidential Envoy for Europe Cesar B. Bautista is shown with Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano during the ambassador's meeting with the prelate in Rome. With them are Maria Paz Bautista and Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See Henrietta de Villa. Ambassador Bautista invited the Vatican official to visit the Philippines in connection with this year's observance of the 50th anniversary of bilateral relations between the Philippines and the Vatican.



INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITY ENDORSER

Betadine Feminine Wash, the only antiseptic wash especially formulated for monthly periods, prides itself with its newest international celebrity product endorser, Donita Rose, a picture of incomparable aura and beauty. Seen in photo during the contract signing are (from left) Babes Llanera, division manager of Image Dimensions; Donita Rose; Jappy Pascual, business development manager of Pascual Laboratories; and Nikky Nicandro III, strategic business unit head (Mundipharma Group) of Pascual Laboratories.

Customs seizes live prawns

THE BUREAU of Customs-Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) had recently apprehended a shipment of nine boxes of live mother prawns at the Philippine Airlines (PAL) Cargo Warehouse build-up area. This was reported to CIIS intelligence and enforcement group deputy commissioner Ray M. Allas by Victor Asuncion, special agent II and team leader at the PAIR Cargo Warehouse, intelligence officer I Johnny Martinez, and OIC of the CIIS-NAIA Fernandino Tuazon.

A joint surveillance operation between the CIIS group and Customs warehousemen under supervisor Teresito M Ronquillo yielded 135 pieces of the prawns, weighing 283 kg. The warrant of seizure and detention had been recommended for violation of Section 99 of Republic Act 8550 known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.

2 sachets of Salonpas gets you 1 Salonsip free

KAPAG masakit ang katawan, hindi dapat sumakit ang bulsa. This is why Hisamitsu, maker of Salonpas, now has a promo pack.

For every purchase of two sachets of Salonpas medicated plaster, you get one free sachet of Salonsip Aquapatch for only P59.50.

Salonpas provides relief for stiff shoulders, muscular pains, muscular fatigue, bruises, sprains, rheumatism, headache, joint pains and lumbago. It's adhesive power lasts for hours, for long-lasting painkilling action.

The Salonpas promo pack is available in leading drugstores nationwide.

BITS Clips

Jollibee fish come true

Ne Jollibee Fish & Fries features tender fish fillet that's lightly breaded and deep-fried to a perfect golden brown. Served with crispy, good old fries and special tartar dip. It's deliciously satisfying at a reasonable value meal price of P59. Catch 100-percent real fish goodness only at Jollibee.

Training on e-commerce

The Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education (CPSC), in collaboration with Informatics Holdings Philippines, Inc. will be conducting a local customized training on how e-commerce works from April 16 to 20. For inquiries, please e-mail cpsc@skyinet.net, or visit www.cpsc.org.ph. CPSC is found on Building Block C, DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

Motolite's 'Sagip Tirik'

Oriental and Motolite Marketing Corp., the local manufacturer and distributor of Oriental and Motolite batteries, is providing motorists free battery check-up on its "Sagip Tirik" campaign to help ensure motorists their car batteries are in good, running condition.. Aside from the free battery check-up, travelers may avail of free snacks and refreshment at any Sagip Tirik center along the Olongapo-Gapan Road (San Fernando, Pampanga), Mabalacat Exit, Pampanga, Halang (Calamba, Laguna), and Poblacion 3, President Laurel Highway (Tanauan, Batangas). Metro Manila Motorists may also avail of Sagip Tirik services at Battery World along Pasong Tamo (in front of Makati Cinema Square), Maceda Street, Sampaloc, Manila, Tramo, Pasay City, and Espana corner P. Noval Streets, Manila. Sagip Tirik runs until Easter Sunday, April 15 (except Good Friday).

Outlast joins Lakbay Alalay

Outlast Maintenance Free Battery has thrown its full support to the public service assistance program for motorists dubbed Lakbay Alalay in cooperation with Petron Phils. and the Philippine National Construction Corporation this Holy Week. Outlast's on-the-road public service assistance includes free battery check-up, battery charging, battery servicing and delivery in all of its 18 stations across Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Lakbay Alalay is on its 15th year. For more details call hotline 455-2065 or 'log' on to outlastbattery.com

MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Faulty wheel conversions result in rollovers

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

FROM 6 to 4.

This is not a truck driver's working hour shift, but the number of wheels left on his truck to avoid being accosted by the Metro Manila Development Authority and other traffic enforcers during truck ban hours.

Most trucks that want to pass through Metro Manila during truck ban reduce their six wheels into four wheels. Their trucks become single-tire trucks.

A six-wheeler can take loads of 3.5 to 4 tons. A four-wheeler, or a single-tire truck, has a maximum load of two tons. The law stipulates that anything carrying more than two tons must not be on four wheels.

Think of it. A typical four-wheeler carrying 6,250 kilos spells an overloaded truck. The single wheel takes all the load supposed to be carried by the missing inner side wheels. The tendency of these overloaded trucks is for the rims to be smashed. A rollover ensues.

"A two-tonner (truck made in Japan) is being used in the Philippines to carry a load of 4 to 5 tons. A four-tonner in Japan we use to carry 6 to 7 tons," said truck mechanic Mercedo Pandan, shaking his head in exasperation.

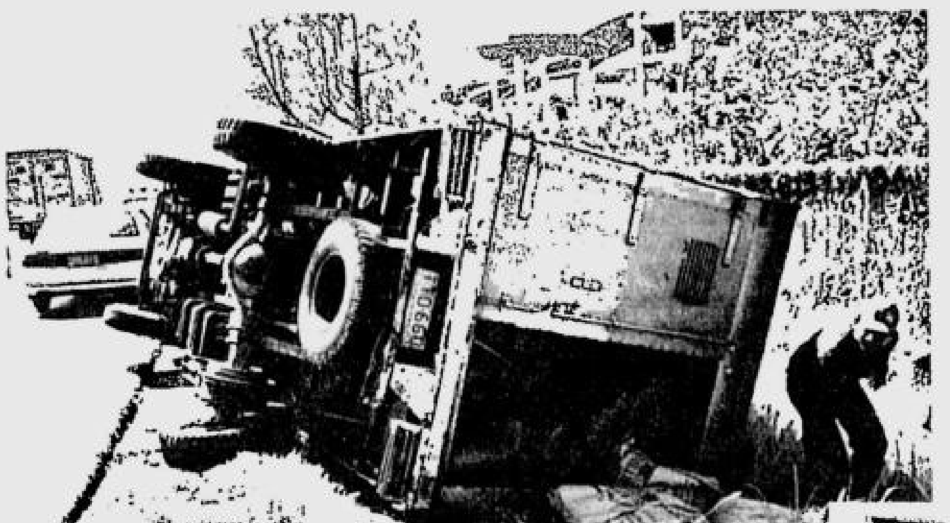
What are the telltale signs that the truck you're beside with are the truncated types?

These trucks are either slanted to the left or the right—"*mukhang pilay*" is how we call it. The truck's body also looks too big for, the wheels.

You're on your own. Highway observers say no one monitors the overload.

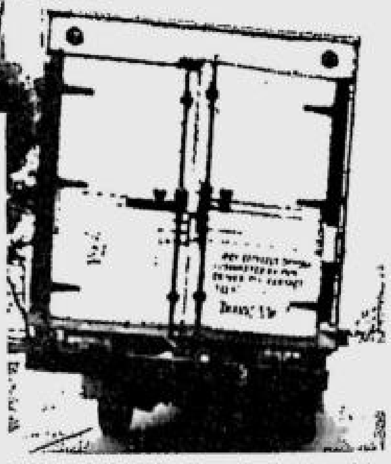
A vehicle weighing 4,500 kilos or above is already a truck. The MMDA men assigned at Edsa, for example, accost trucks solely on the number of wheels. The MMDA says that any six-wheeler is a truck, and anything less than that isn't one.

"Nobody really polices overloading of trucks properly to avoid accidents. The important thing is that law enforcers do it right," said a motorist passing by the scene of a recent truck accident on Edsa.



A SIX-WHEELER converted into four-wheeler, is carrying a load of 6,250 kilos. The four wheels took the load of six. Obviously, the poor wheels couldn't take it for long. The vehicle rolled over along the South Superhighway.

SMASHED rim



THE TRUCK'S body is too big for the wheels.

Yokohama introduces A539 tire

BY VERNON B. SARNE

ANYONE who has watched a Formula One race should know that tire strategy plays as crucial a role as engine horsepower and aerodynamics in deciding which drivers get to stand on the podium. An unexpected drizzle, for instance, could freeze a team dead in its tracks or send a race leader all the way to the back of the field if the right tire strategy has not been mapped out. Knowing when to use slick tires, intermediate tires or full wet-weather tires in various stages of the race usually does wonders to the final results.

It is with this principle that Yokohama Tire Phils. has launched the new A539 performance tire which supposedly has superior grip in both dry and wet road conditions. Think intermediate tires a la Formula One. Sure, Yokohama is not involved in F1 like rivals Bridgestone and Michelin. But the company's involvement in other international motorsport events has given Yokohama nearly the same understanding of tire performance under the harshest of road conditions.

The A539 features an asymmetrical tread pattern that lends confidence during cornering. Both the helical and the acute grooves of the tire are said to work together to offer excellent drainage in wet conditions. On dry pavement, the A539 displays superb traction, thanks to the high-rigidity blocks on the shoulder. These shoulder blocks, YTP claimed, even keep low frequency noise to an absolute minimum.

But the best feature of the A539 is the very stuff it is made of. The tire has a super-traction compound that bestows it superior wet-weather performance, with silica now evenly dispersing in the rubber. The A539 owes this to Yokohama's patented Zeruma, a special processing agent that optimizes the distribution of silica in rubber.

The new Yokohama A539 tire is now pitted against Bridgestone's RE720, Michelin's SX-GT, and Pirelli's P6000 Powergy. With prices ranging from P3,350 (13-inch 60 series) to P8,663 (17-inch 40/45 series) apiece, the A539, according to YTP vice president Takeshi Fujino, is competitively positioned. Fujino projected sales of 3,000 A539 tires a month.

Yokohama Tire and Rubber Co. is the sixth biggest tiremaker in the world, with global sales of US$3.7 billion last year. It owns 22 percent of the commercial tire market in Japan, but only about 10 percent of the Philippine radial market.

How to survive the SLEX

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THIS being Holy Week, a lot of us will be motoring to hometowns and resorts north and south of Metro Manila via the Luzon expressways. As a veteran survivor of the South Luzon Expressway's (SLEX) most crowded segment—the Nichols-Alabang-Nichols north and southbound stretches—for the last 10 years, at least five days a week, with nary an accident to blot my record—I'd like to impart a few tips on how to survive the SLEX. Without suffering a nervous breakdown or raising your blood pressure unnecessarily.

SOUTHBOUND TIPS. Even when it isn't rush hour, the southbound entrance to Nichols toll plaza often looks like a parking lot, with vehicles from the South Superhighway and C-5 crowding into three lanes as the SLEX tapers from seven to three lanes up to the Bicutan exit.

As the SLEX narrows down like a funnel into three lanes, the trick is to stick to the leftmost lane. Not because it is the fast lane, but because no one can cut into your path from the left, your lane being the extreme left lane. And cars trying to overtake or cut you from the right will have difficulty doing so if you carefully tailgate the car in front of you.

But don't stay in the leftmost lane all the way to Bicutan, unless you want to take it easy and are in no hurry to reach your destination. Midway to the Bicutan exit, slowly work your way to the middle lane and then to the rightmost lane, which is called the slow lane in most civilized countries but in the Philippines is used by savvy motorists as the fast lane.

The rightmost lane of the SLEX from Nichols to Bicutan is wider than each of the two other lanes, so vehicles using it can move faster. Moreover, as you reach the 500-meter mark to the Bicutan exit, the rightmost lane forks into two lanes, with the left tine of the fork merging with the mainstream SLEX lanes proceeding on toward Sucat past the Bicutan toll plaza and the right tine leading up to the Bicutan exit toll plaza. Don't be alarmed by the yellow double parallel lines that warn you of the approach to the Bicutan exit as there is plenty of room to maneuver your car back to the SLEX's mainstream.

Past the Bicutan exit, the southbound SLEX narrows anew, this time from three lanes into two. It's wise to work your way back to the leftmost lane, to avoid being cut from the right by buses, cargo trucks and container vans entering the SLEX from Bicutan.

But when you reach that portion of the southbound SLEX parallel to the Skyway's single-lane exit ramp, move from the left lane to the right lane so that once the barricade separating the Skyway exit ramp lane from the mainstream SLEX ends, you can work your way back to the rightmost or fast lane. Stay on this rightmost lane until you reach the sign marking 500 meters to the Sucat exit, at which point you should go back to the middle lane to avoid the queue of cars exiting at Sucat, two or three abreast. Sometimes, to make life harder for toll-paying motorists, the PNCC (or Citra Metro Manila Tollway Corp. or Skyway Corp., whatever) places a line of orange cones starting at the 500-meter marker.

Having successfully negotiated your way past the Bicutan and Sucat exits, only the Sucat-to-Alabang portion of the SLEX remains to be conquered. (Past Alabang, southbound traffic on the SLEX is usually much lighter.) Again, stay on the rightmost or fast lane until you reach the sign marking the 500-meter approach to the Alabang public market exit. At this point, move back to the middle lane and drive past the old Alabang exit on this lane unless you intend to exit at Filinvest Alabang and have to join the queue of cars without E-Pass tagkits on the rightmost lane of the Alabang flyover. But if you're proceeding to points farther south, once you pass by the Filinvest exit you can go back to the rightmost or fast lane. *(To be concluded next week)*

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph

MOTORSCOPE

'Lakbay Alalay' 2001

ON ITS 14th year, Petron-PNCC Lakbay Alalay will assist the motorist to ensure their safety and comfort during the Holy Week. Lakbay Alalay 2001 will provide free medical/first aid/ambulance assistance, communication facilities, drinking water and restroom facilities, apart from the regular automotive technical assistance and trouble shooting from roving and in-station teams. Towing services are free. Basic spare parts, motor fuels and motor oils are available at retail prices. The assuring sight of the different service camps and their roving operatives will make motorists confident that assistance is on the way with the trusted Friend-on-the-Road program of Petron. Lakbay Alalay teams will be on the road on April 11, 12, 14 and 15.

Rev magazine launched

A NEW straight-shooting, irreverent automotive publication is now out on the market. Solid Ink Corp. has launched the maiden issue of Rev, a glossy car magazine that will hit the stands twice a month. A collective effort by motoring journalists Vernon B. Sarne (Inquirer), Brian Afuang (Philippine Star), Jesus Erle Sebastian (Today), and Popong Andolong (Today), Rev presents in colorful visuals and entertaining stories the latest in the car industry both here and overseas. The maiden issue—printed with three different covers (Ford EX Concept; Toyota RSC; and Nissan Z)—features the new Honda Civic, Volvo S60, Porsche 911 GT2, and test drives of the Chevrolet Zafira, Ford Explorer Sport Trac, and Toyota Echo Verso. It is now available at leading magazine stands, bookstores, gasoline stations and car accessories shops. Rev is sold at P40 a copy.

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OPEN FOR DEALERSHIP

Caltex offers motorists safe, hassle-free travel

A COMPREHENSIVE two-phased motorist assistance program awaits travelers this summer so they can enjoy a hassle-free trip during the Holy Week. Dubbed as Caltex Summer Samaritan program, motorists can avail of free vehicle maintenance services and also enjoy special discounts and free gift items at participating Caltex service stations.

"Travelers can be assured of a friendly, fast and efficient motorist assistance program before and during Holy Week in 52 Caltex service stations from Batangas to Baguio City," said Ickhoy de Leon, Caltex brands manager.

The first phase ongoing until April 15, offers a free 22-point checkup in 18 Caltex Xpress Lube Service Centers in Luzon. The checkup includes engine oil, fan belt, air-con belt, aircon gas, brake fluid, clutch fluid, power steering fluid, automatic transmission fluid, coolant, windshield washer water, radiator hose, radiator cap, battery water and terminal, air filter, lights, engine idling, wiper blade, tire pressure, chassis lubrication, manual transmission and differential fluid.

The Xpress Lube centers also offer motorists 20 percent discounts on brake fluids and coolants. Furthermore, motorists who buy these discounted products and avail of a change oil package may also purchase the multipurpose Xpress Lubes Camp Mat at P50 only, a substantial discount from its commercial price of P150.

While waiting for their vehicles to be checked, customers can send text messages for free through landline texting setup in participating stations.

The second phase, which will be offered from Holy Wednesday to Easter Sunday (except Good Friday), not only provides a wide range of motorist assistance services but also offers a generous list of products for free, essential for traveling families and *barkadas* (gangs).

Motorist assistance services under the second phase include:

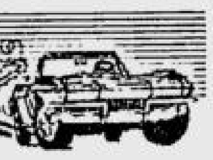
- Free towing with well-trained mechanics stationed at strategically located stations.
- Free car checks by Toyota, Isuzu and Nissan at selected Caltex stations.
- Xpress Lube roving vans to assist motorists.
- Car battery check stations.
- First-aid assistance sponsored by Red Cross.
- Regular traffic updates on the North and South Expressways.

Product give-aways at participating Caltex service stations include free sample diapers, ice cream, potato chips, mineral water, deodorants and hot food and cold drinks served round the clock at Caltex Star Mart outlets.

Ancestral house, gurgling brooks, native yields

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza



I AM almost sure that there are still many of us stuck on the road this very minute as we tread our way to the country.

It's an annual rite, the trip back to our roots during the Holy Week.

Even those who have adopted the Big City as their place of residence are still haunted by the happy ghost of the past: we simply need to go back to the province and renew our ties with both our relatives and friends.

The ancestral house beckons. And for those "poor boys from the barrio who made good in the city," the gurgling brooks will always be gurgling brooks. No matter if the water is a bit polluted now (due to modernization?).

We are a deeply sentimental people. Every chance to have that journey back home is almost never wasted.

* * *

Yes, we need to fast, but when it's over, food will be abundant—our way of celebrating God's resurrection as well as giving the family something to feast on: the menu will definitely consist of native yields: mainly dalag and hito, malaga and bangus up North, ginatang tambakol, gabi and kasag down South.

Of course, drinks will flow, particularly of the "spirited variety" which the American Indians in the olden times loved to call "crazy water."

But before the fiesta-like atmosphere, silence—almost deafening silence—should be the order of the day. Particularly today and tomorrow, Good Friday.

When I was small, my late mother gave me orders not to speak a word on Good Friday. I was forbidden to take a bath, to go out of the house, to play. I was not allowed to climb a tree, a passion in my youth.

"Once you fall and you break your arm, it will never return to its original form," my mother said. "*Komang ka na* for the rest of your life."

I did break my left arm—after I fell in a canal on board my bike when I was in elementary school. My left arm is a little crooked but not *komang*, though. Thank God.

* * *

Funny, but I'd like to think we all drive cautiously these days. The Lenten Season could spell disaster to the carefree?

My advice is, we must drive cautiously—carefully?—at all times. Safe driving is when you know how to keep your distance—not just two cars between you and the vehicle in front of you but make that four bulldozers, especially if you're running at 80 to 100 kph.

Safe driving is when you know how to control your speed. Make it 120 at the most when you are in the expressway and the road isn't that crowded.

Safe driving is when you overtake properly. The way to do it is when it's totally clear to overtake the vehicle in front of you. Meaning, no vehicle on the opposite side of the road can be seen at all when you start to overtake.

If you are driving a car, never follow a bus or a much-bigger vehicle when it starts to overtake. Let it finish its own overtaking before you make yours. Make it a habit to overtake all by yourself to make sure that your path is clear of any vehicle coming toward your direction when you start overtaking.

The fastest way to get to your destination, as I keep saying here, is to drive slowly.

Happy Easter!

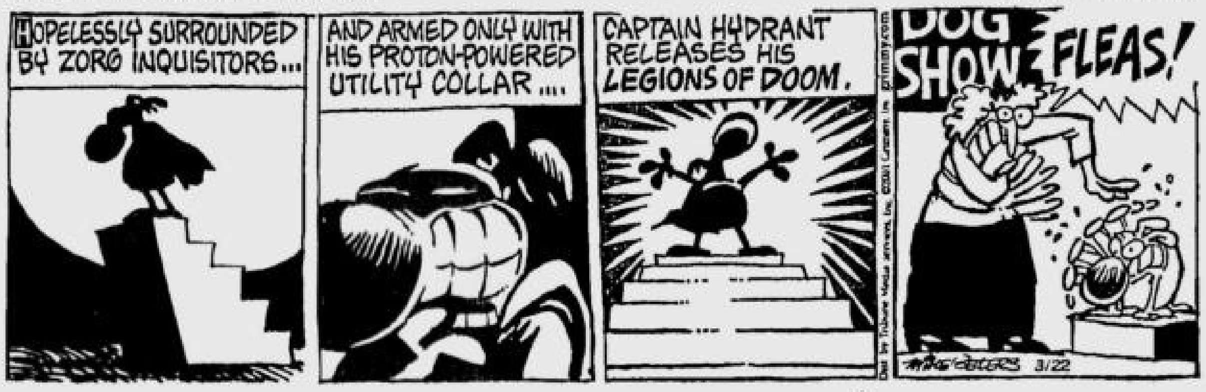
* * *

QUOTE ME. Fast and reckless driving can lead you to either the hospital or the cemetery.

ComicRelief

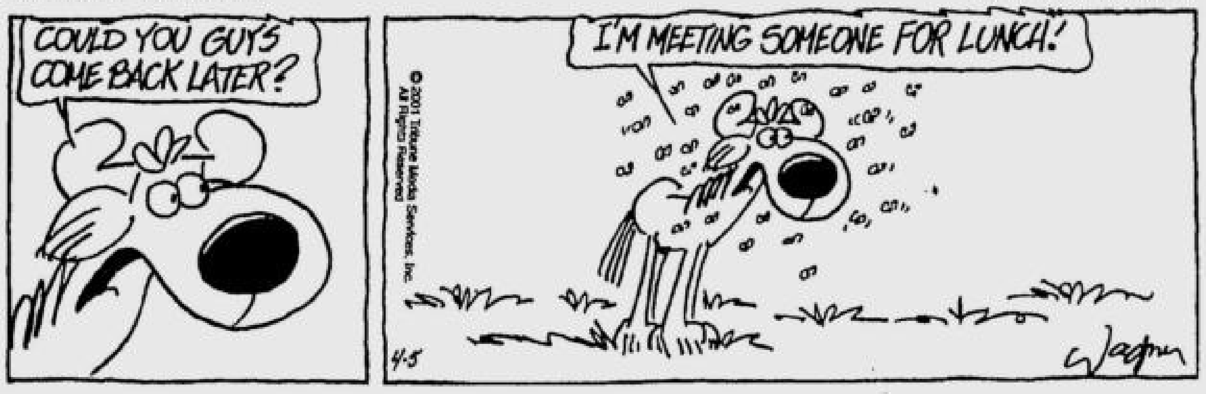
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HOPELESSLY SURROUNDED BY ZORG INQUISITORS...
AND ARMED ONLY WITH HIS PROTON-POWERED UTILITY COLLAR....
CAPTAIN HYDRANT RELEASES HIS LEGIONS OF DOOM.
DOG SHOW
FLEAS!
grimmy.com
MIKE PETERS 3/22

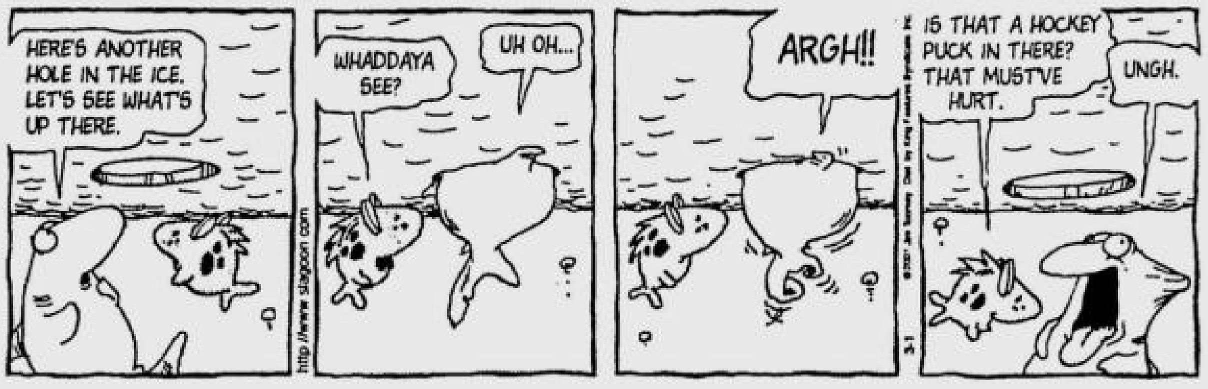
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


COULD YOU GUYS COME BACK LATER?
I'M MEETING SOMEONE FOR LUNCH!
© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
4-5
Wagner

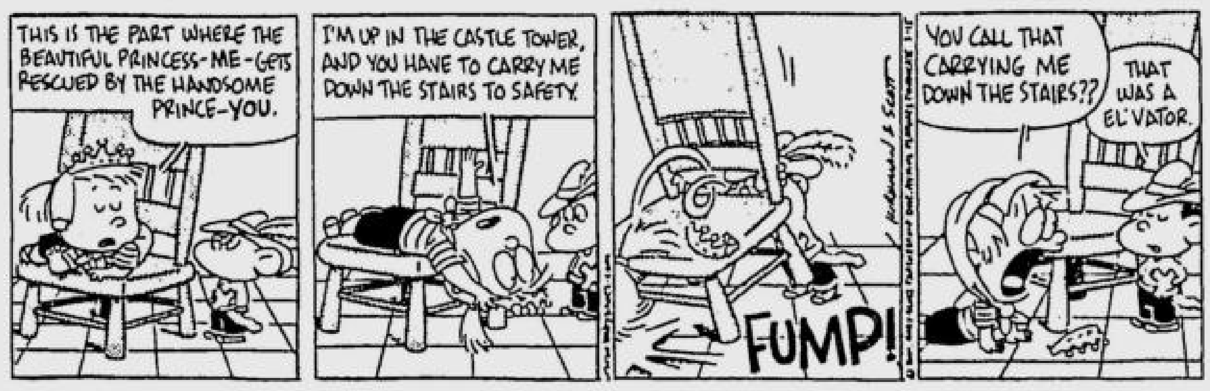
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HERE'S ANOTHER HOLE IN THE ICE. LET'S SEE WHAT'S UP THERE.
http://www.slagoon.com
WHADDAYA SEE?
UH OH...
ARGH!!
3-1
IS THAT A HOCKEY PUCK IN THERE? THAT MUST'VE HURT.
UNGH.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THIS IS THE PART WHERE THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS-ME-GETS RESCUED BY THE HANDSOME PRINCE-YOU.
I'M UP IN THE CASTLE TOWER, AND YOU HAVE TO CARRY ME DOWN THE STAIRS TO SAFETY.
FUMP!
YOU CALL THAT CARRYING ME DOWN THE STAIRS??
THAT WAS A EL'VATOR.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: David Letterman, Shannen Doherty, David Cassidy, Vince Gill, Montserrat Caballe, Andy Garcia, Claire Danes

Happy Birthday: You will not be satisfied with sitting on the sidelines this year. You will do whatever is necessary to participate in the action. Your expectations and determination are high. You will strive to complete everything you start and will have the courage to take on competition or opposition. Your numbers: 9, 12, 16, 22, 27, 35

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Find ways to improve yourself and your image. Social events will lead to a romantic adventure. Make sure that the person you're attracted to can keep up with your fast pace.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't go crazy buying luxury items for your home. You need to bank your money for the time being. Unexpected bills will be a cause for alarm if you spend all your cash on unnecessary items.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your emotional partner may no longer be providing you with the mental stimulation you need. Talk to him or her. If you work together, you can regain the magic.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be able to make career moves that will lead to professional advancement and more money. Travel will probably be necessary, but the package will be too good to turn down.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be in an energetic mood and need to find an outlet. Consider joining your local theater group. You need a place to role-play and dramatize.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): When you least expect it, the perfect mate will come waltzing into your life. Past romantic partners will try to find a way back into your heart as well. Remember the reasons why you broke up before.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You're gifted when it comes to seeing both sides of an issue. Friends will lean on you for advice. Don't let them take advantage of your good nature. You'll get run-down if you take on too much.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be the center of attention at social events. Your competitive nature and refusal to admit defeat will lead you to the winners' circle. New relationships will be tempting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Evading issues will backfire on you. If you don't wish to be confronted, I suggest you retreat for the time being. You'll be misinterpreted and misunderstood if you don't.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Opportunities to make some extra cash will surface. Keep your eyes peeled for unique ways to invest your money. You'll be riding high if you make the right choices.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Surround yourself with individuals who can offer you intellectual stimulation. You can meet potential new mates, but make sure that they aren't already committed elsewhere.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't confront your boss. It would be wise to make sure that you have a new job lined up first. You're not likely to get much sympathy from loved ones if you quit.

Birthday Baby: You are an entrepreneur. You have wonderful ideas and will capture the attention of anyone you talk to. You are giving, caring and charismatic. Nothing will ever be too much trouble for you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13
14				■	15				■	16				
17				■	18				■	19				
20				21					22					
■	■	■	23				■	■	24			■	■	■
25	26	27				■	28	29				30	31	32
33					■	34				■	■	35		
36					37					38	39			
40			■	■	41				■	42				
43			44	45				■	46					
■	■	■	47			■	■	48				■	■	■
49	50	51				52	53					54	55	56
57					■	58				■	59			
60					■	61				■	62			
63					■	64				■	65			

By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

2/27/01

ACROSS

1 Poke fun at
5 Weepy gasps
9 Series of eight
14 Lotion ingredient
15 October birthstone
16 Daughter of Tantalus
17 Actress Rogers
18 Queue
19 Cherub
20 Three houses
23 Bauxite bonanza
24 Apiary resident
25 Descendants
28 Mistake free
33 Wore
34 Manipulates
35 Feathery scarf
36 Three houses
40 Gorcey or Durocher
41 Sorrowful exclamation
42 Catkin
43 __ membrane (eardrum)
46 Gazes fixedly
47 Memorable period
48 Prayer wind-up
49 Three houses
57 Dig deeply?
58 Make sound
59 Greek letter
60 St. __ Cardinals
61 Besides
62 Toe tip
63 Cover the tab
64 Mimics
65 Gaelic tongue

DOWN

1 Side of a doorway
2 Melange
3 Cell body
4 Valued hand-me-down
5 Cubes and spheres, e.g.
6 Speculate
7 Slam loudly
8 Winter coaster
9 Wild ass
10 Ashy fragment
11 Lome's land
12 Cain's brother
13 Compaq rival
21 Summer or Douglas
22 Past plump
25 "Thou __ not..."
26 __ Fork (Tennessee river)
27 Local lingo
28 Hayes or Stern
29 New Jersey team
30 Mr. Doubleday
31 Nary a soul
32 Small pies
34 Jamaican citrus fruit
37 One of the Hawaiian Islands
38 Alma __
39 Garnished with almonds
44 City on the Illinois
45 Take into custody
46 Grins
48 Humiliate
49 Weapons reduction talks, briefly
50 Olfactory stimulant
51 Black sheep
52 Actress Vidal
53 Kennel call
54 Sound of an enthusiastic crowd
55 "(Sittin' on)The Dock of the Bay" singer Redding
56 Corduroy characteristic

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	P	I	N	E	■	S	P	A	S	■	J	A	V	A
K	A	B	U	L	■	K	A	N	T	■	O	V	I	D
I	R	E	N	E	D	U	N	N	E	■	D	I	C	E
M	A	X	■	V	O	L	E	■	W	A	I	V	E	S
■	■	■	D	A	N	K	■	C	A	P	E	■	■	■
A	G	L	E	T	S	■	B	A	R	E	F	O	O	T
B	R	I	B	E	■	L	I	N	D	■	O	A	H	U
H	O	B	O	■	R	O	P	E	S	■	S	T	A	R
O	V	E	R	■	E	V	E	R	■	S	T	E	R	N
R	E	L	A	P	S	E	D	■	T	H	E	S	E	S
■	■	■	H	O	P	S	■	B	O	O	R	■	■	■
P	I	C	K	L	E	■	B	O	N	G	■	A	L	S
A	C	R	E	■	C	H	O	W	Y	U	N	F	A	T
G	O	E	R	■	T	I	L	E	■	N	E	R	V	E
O	N	E	R	■	S	P	A	R	■	S	T	O	A	T

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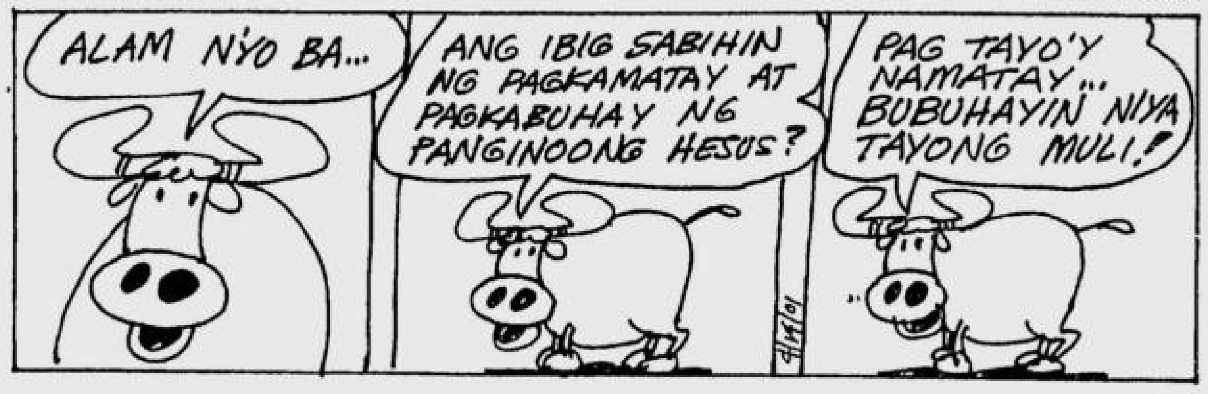
2/27/01

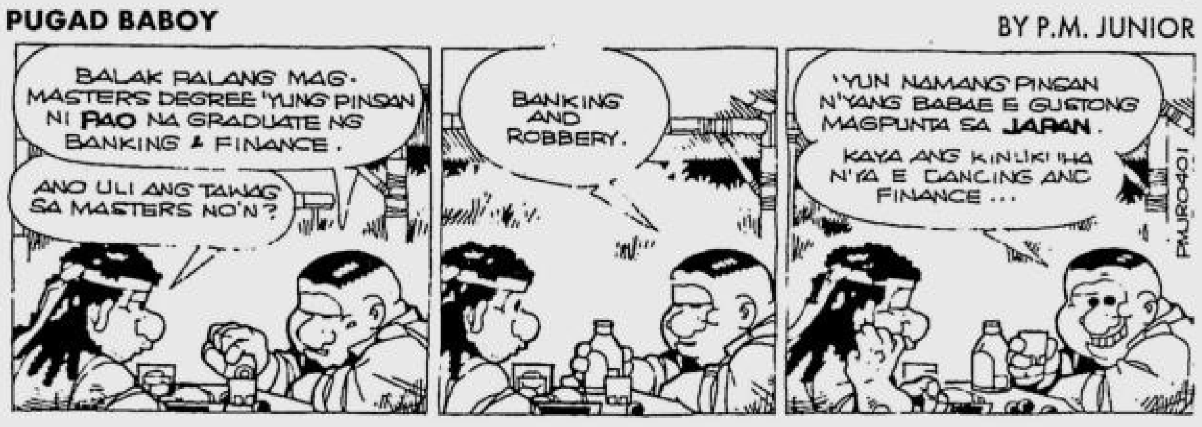
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ALAM N'YO BA...
ANG IBIG SABIHIN NG PAGKAMATAY AT PAGKABUHAY NG PANGINOONG HESUS?
4/11/01
PAG TAYO'Y NAMATAY... BUBUHAYIN NIYA TAYONG MULI!

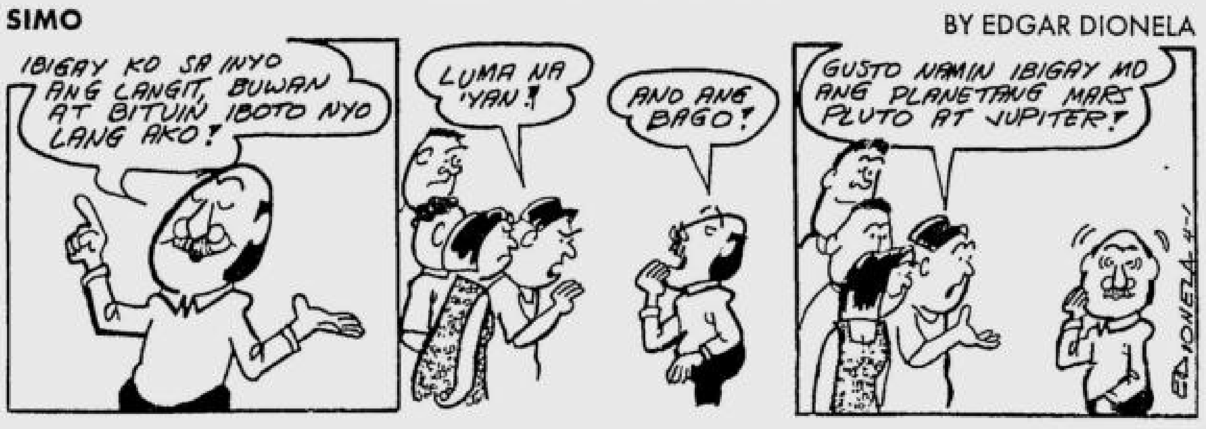
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BALAK PALANG MAG-MASTERS DEGREE 'YUNG PINSAN NI PAO NA GRADUATE NG BANKING & FINANCE.
ANO ULI ANG TAWAG SA MASTERS NO'N?
BANKING AND ROBBERY.
'YUN NAMANG PINSAN N'YANG BABAE E GUSTONG MAGPUNTA SA JAPAN.
KAYA ANG KINUKUHA N'YA E DANCING AND FINANCE...
PMJR0401

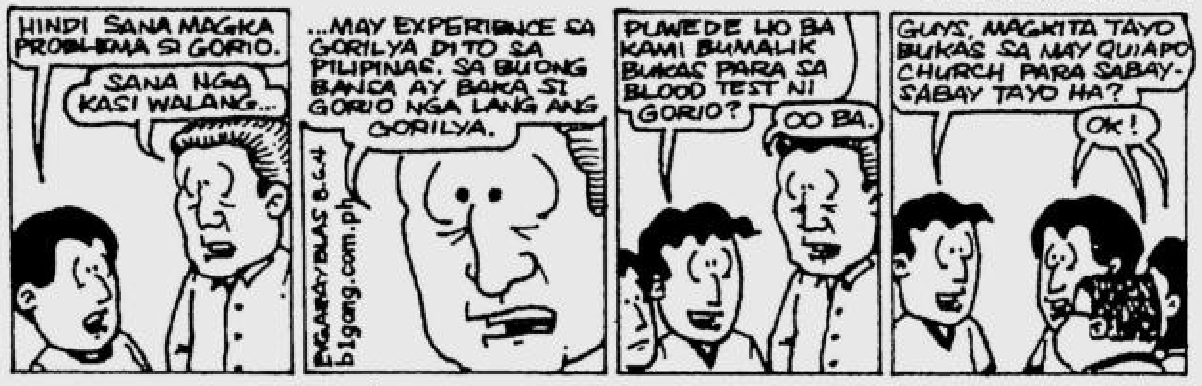
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


IBIGAY KO SA INYO ANG LANGIT, BUWAN AT BITUIN IBOTO NYO LANG AKO!
LUMA NA 'YAN!
ANO ANG BAGO!
GUSTO NAMIN IBIGAY MO ANG PLANETANG MARS PLUTO AT JUPITER!
EDIONELA 4-11

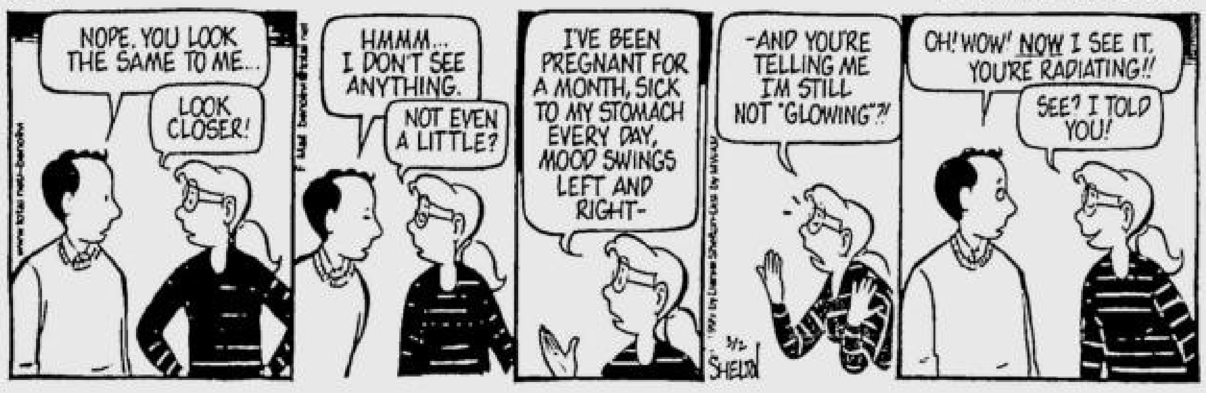
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


HINDI SANA MAGKA PROBLEMA SI GORIO.
SANA NGA KASI WALANG...
...MAY EXPERIENCE SA GORILYA DITO SA PILIPINAS. SA BUONG BANCA AY BAKA SI GORIO NGA LANG ANG GORILYA.
b1gang.com.ph
PUWEDE HO BA KAMI BUMALIK BUKAS PARA SA BLOOD TEST NI GORIO?
OO BA.
GUYS, MAGKITA TAYO BUKAS SA MAY QUIAPO CHURCH PARA SABAY-SABAY TAYO HA?
OK!

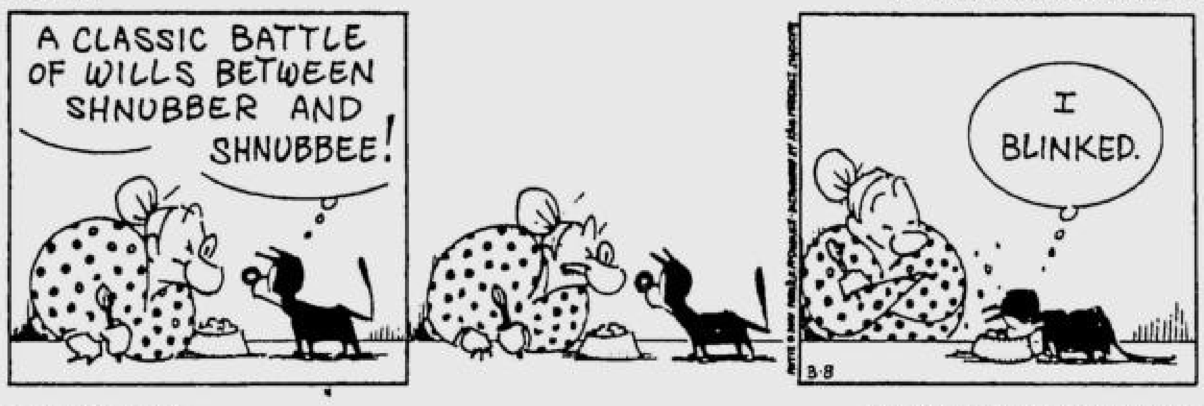
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NOPE. YOU LOOK THE SAME TO ME...
LOOK CLOSER!
HMMM... I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
NOT EVEN A LITTLE?
I'VE BEEN PREGNANT FOR A MONTH, SICK TO MY STOMACH EVERY DAY, MOOD SWINGS LEFT AND RIGHT-
-AND YOU'RE TELLING ME I'M STILL NOT "GLOWING"?!
SHELTON
OH! WOW! NOW I SEE IT. YOU'RE RADIATING!!
SEE? I TOLD YOU!

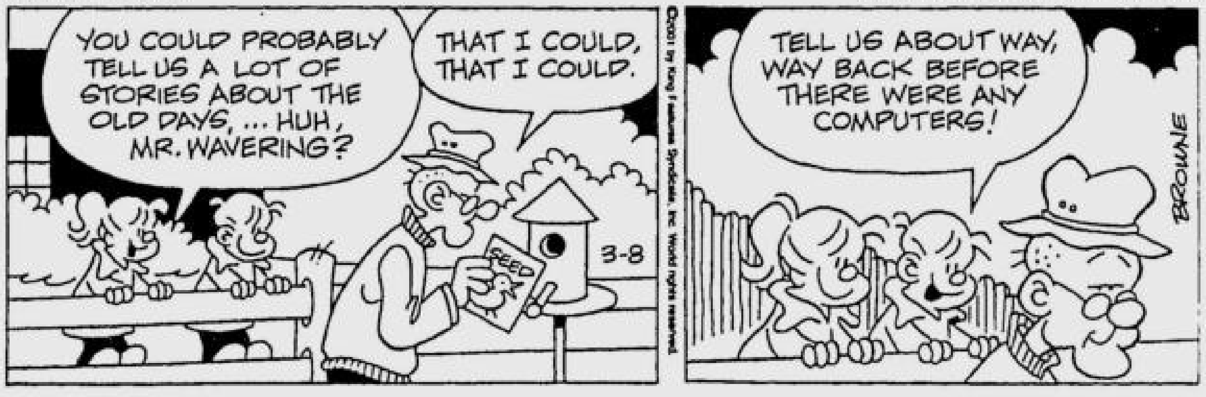
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


A CLASSIC BATTLE OF WILLS BETWEEN SHNUBBER AND SHNUBBEE!
I BLINKED.
3-8

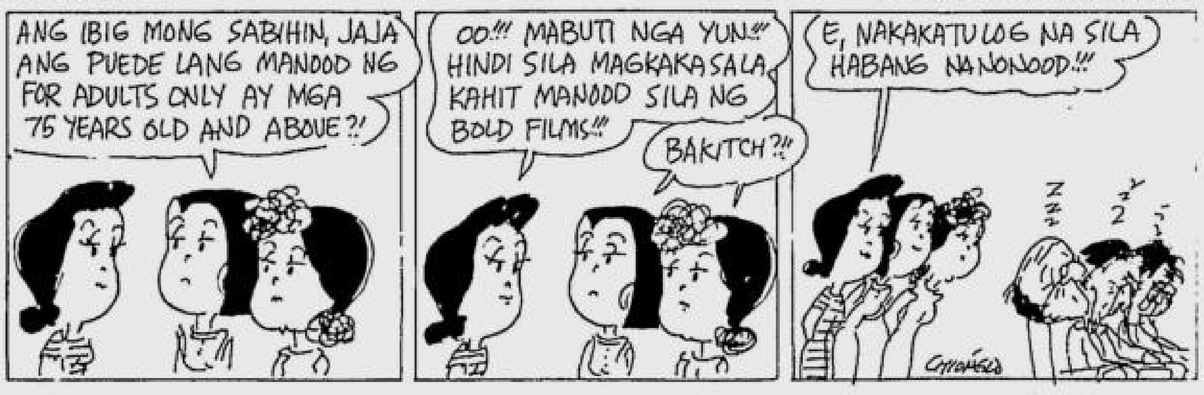
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


YOU COULD PROBABLY TELL US A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT THE OLD DAYS, ... HUH, MR. WAVERING?
THAT I COULD, THAT I COULD.
SEED
3-8
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
TELL US ABOUT WAY, WAY BACK BEFORE THERE WERE ANY COMPUTERS!
BROWNE

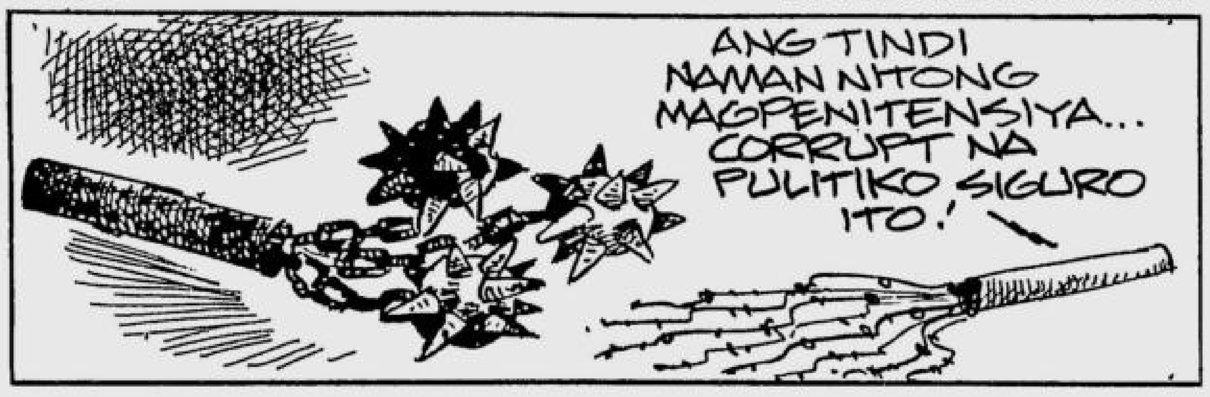
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG IBIG MONG SABIHIN, JAJA ANG PUEDE LANG MANOOD NG FOR ADULTS ONLY AY MGA 75 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE?!
OO!!! MABUTI NGA YUN!!! HINDI SILA MAGKAKASALA KAHIT MANOOD SILA NG BOLD FILMS!!!
BAKITCH?!!
E, NAKAKATULOG NA SILA HABANG NANONOOD!!!
Z Z Z
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


ANG TINDI NAMAN NITONG MAGPENITENSIYA... CORRUPT NA PULITIKO SIGURO ITO!

Free to choose

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

ARE you on a diet?" I asked a friend who was being picky about lunch. "Who isn't?", she answered. "Our mothers fed us to make us fat and healthy; as grownups we followed our desires and ate well. Now we end up with dietary problems, which we must remedy by abstinence and avoidance. When women of a certain age get together, the talk is filled with diets, weight problems and Xenical. *Ganyan talaga ang buhay.*"

The good news is that nutrition researchers and food manufacturers have found solutions. The bad news is that we have to live within the walls of our ailments and prescribed diets. But it isn't that bad because of what is now available.

Low-sugar, sugar-free desserts

- Fruit and oatmeal Very Berry bars (the Quaker Oats company, USA), for example, have only 15 mg of sugar and 2.5 g total fat and 0 cholesterol.
- Doña Jimena Turron Duro Sin Azucar (Spain) has 18 g sugar, 1 g saturated fat and 0 unsaturated fat and 3 g protein. Read the nutrition facts behind each package.
- Fragata all-natural Seville Orange Diet Marmalade (Spain) has 30 percent less calories and is suitable for diabetics, because it only has 11 g sugars and 0 fat. (Call the Mandarin Deli to ask about other flavors available.)
- A special luxury are the sugar-free chocolate bonbons of Belgium. No nutrition facts on the white box elegant enough to hold jewelry: take it on the country tradition, the shop's integrity, and on faith.
- Some bakers accept orders for sugar-free apple pies, as do Annette Sison (tel. 931-4111/3515) and Sugarhouse. The former bakes old-fashioned, two-crust deep-dish pies; the latter makes open pies with a French streusel topping.
- Lisa Asuncion's Guilt-free Desserts (telefax 631-7434, cell phone 0917-5282707, e-mail gfd@info.com.ph) include sugar-free desserts sweetened with aspartame (Equal, Nutrasweet), honey or molasses; or unsweetened, depending only on fructose, the sugar found in fruit. These products include: date or date walnut quick bread; lemon chiffon cake; lemon, lime or New York-style cheesecakes with graham cracker crust; Bailey's Chocolate or Coffee Kahlua cheesecake with Graham cracker crust; egg-free chocolate mousse with reduced-fat Oreo cookie crust. (The graham cracker and Oreo cookie crusts have some sugar.) Also Banana Walnut Quick Bread. The cholesterol-free Granny Smith apple pie with aspartame is yummy. They are aptly called, collectively, Sweet Indulgence.

Fat-free, low-fat or cholesterol-free desserts

Not only diabetics have diet problems. How about those with high cholesterol counts, high blood pressure, a heart or kidney condition or weight problems? Lisa calls her response to this Indulge Minus the Bulge. Here we find Chewy Oatmeal Raisin Bars, Fudge Walnut Brownies, Lean Date Walnut bars, Egg-free Carrot Raisin Walnut Spice cake, Carrot Raisin Walnut cake (with reduced-fat Philly Cream Cheese Icing), Chocolate Chip Cookies, Low Fat Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Low Fat Zucchini Walnut quick bread and pecan tarts. Also banana, carrot, papaya and apple breads.

HERSHEY'S
Sweet Escapes
45% LESS FAT
Triple Chocolate Wafer Bars

Egg-free desserts are called Egg-X-Traordinary, and include Date Granola bars, and other breads, cakes and pies already listed under Indulge Minus the Bulge II and Sweet Indulgence product lines.

All the above contain minimal fat, and no egg yolks or ingredients of animal origin.

- Sweet Escapes is the name of Hershey's Triple Chocolate Wafer Bars, with 45 percent less fat than the average leading chocolate candy brands. The "sinfully rich candy bars with delicious layers of crispy cocoa wafers and velvety chocolate creme drenched in real Hershey's milk chocolate," to quote the label, come as Triple Chocolate Wafer Bars individually wrapped; Caramel & Peanut Butter Crispy Bars and Chocolate Toffee Crisp Bars, nine to a bag. Total fat: 2.5 g; saturated fat, 1.5 g; sugars 12 g. Ask your friends to let you know if they spot any snacks or foods suitable for your diet at supermarkets or health shops.
- SerenDipity (tel. 911-4536 or [0917] 529-5121) makes dips and sauces, and now offers a low-fat Creamy Spinach Dip that one stores in the freezer. To reheat, thaw it for 10 minutes then microwave on high for 30 seconds to one minute. Spread on Melba Toast or crackers.
- Good, flexible restaurants like Via Mare will yield to requests by dieters, e.g. no MSG, please, or low salt, low sugar, no sugar at all.
- Then, of course, home cooks can design dishes tailor-made for your problem, like *gulaman* without sugar, cooking with olive or other vegetable oil rather than with butter. Pastry chef Jill Sandique used to supply low-fat, low-sugar desserts to Heny Sison's Cake Art Shop; check if she still does (a chef's career often takes off and makes twists and turns). Pia Lim Castillo takes care of the family cholesterol level by serving mostly fish. Her doctor was so pleased with the percentage of good cholesterol their tests showed, that he asked for more information about the family diet.

DOÑA JIMENA
Turrón Duro
Sin Azúcar

> Sugar-free, fat-free and cholesterol-free—if that's the kind of food you're looking for, it's in the market

Let us not complain about having to be restricted by therapeutic diets. Instead, let us bless medical science and nutrition studies and manufacturers that allow us to eat, and still know the pleasures of food despite frailty of the flesh.

Note of thanks

EVER since this column resumed publication, friends have been sending food, not only to welcome me back, but also to provide additional material for food research. My gratitude goes to:

- Glenda Barretto, who sent delicious *humba* with crunchy peanuts, and a perfect *sinigang* of salmon head and belly with very crisp greens.
- Cely Kalaw sent from her Sinigang Bar (cooked by Lisa) an unusual *sinigang na manok* with *gabi*-thickened broth and green bananas, and a *sinigang na bangus sa bayabas.*
- Doren Tayag of Angeles, Pampanga, who sent a pecan torte with a chocolate crust.
- Filo Batungbacal, who sent bottles of Filo's Finest Mango Pickles from Betagro Farm in Palauig, Zambales, harbinger of the Betagro mangoes coming in May. There were as well pickled green, olive-sized *paho.*
- Nancy Reyes Lumen sent brownies with icing, and *pan de sal.*
- Chef Ed Quimson, who is on a diabetic diet as I am, sent his own cured ham and Sweet Escapes low-fat chocolate bars.
- Priscilla de la Fuente, whose *acharang papaya* was made from her mother's recipe.

Bless their kind hearts.

What's on the menu this Easter

BURGOO AMERICAN BAR-RESTO. Indulge in marine treasures with Lemon Peppered Grilled Lapu-lapu, Pan-fried Salmon, Friday Fish Fry, Quatro del Pesce, Seafood de Napoli, Fried Calamari, Seafood Linguini, Seafood Chef Salad, Frutte de Mare Pizza and Oyster Parmigiana.

CRAVINGS. New dishes concocted specially for Easter include Pork Scallopini with Mango-Barbecue Vinaigrette, Spicy Corn Relish and Brazilian Rice Pilaf and Guava-glazed Roast Turkey with Chorizo Chestnut Stuffing. At Cravings café, sample Belgian Pork Schnitzel with Steak Fries, Open-face Roast Turkey Melt Sandwich with Chilean Onion Relish and Sautéed Mushrooms. There'll be egg-hunting and egg-decorating contest for diners.

DISCOVERY SUITES. Start the buffet feast with Roasted Pepper Bisque with Saffron, Assorted Sushi and Sashimi, Spicy Pickle Egg, Italian Pasta Salad with Parmesan Shave, Mixed Green Salad, Tomato Caprese with Walnut, Smoked Salmon and Artichoke Salad, Chicken Potato Salad, Spicy Squid and Green Papaya Salad. Take a pick from hot entrées that include Egg Florentine, Pot Roast of Beef with Rosemary, Poached Snapper with Shitake Mushroom and Hoisin, Roasted Chicken in Orange Sauce, Macaroni and Cheese Casserole and Caramelized Onion and Potato Au Gratin. An Easter bunny will distribute candies and stuffed toys to kids.

HERITAGE HOTEL. For every lunch or dinner buffet at Restaurant Riviera, guests are entitled to "Eggs-citing Easter: Guess the Number of Eggs" promo coupon. Raffle draw is on April 16. Easter goodies like fruit marzipans, pralines and jolly chocolate bunnies are available at the Lobby Lounge.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL. The Captain's Bar features egg-hunting at 11 a.m. and a Disney presentation of fairy tale characters, such as Cinderella, Prince Charming, Sleeping Beauty and Snow White, at 1:30 p.m. Children will also have their hands full with bags of goodies and special prizes from Toy Town. Admission to the egg hunt is free to those partaking of the brunch buffet at The Brasserie at P859 for adults and P680 for kids; or the Chinese buffet lunch at Tin Hau at P750 adults, P350 kids.

MANILA DIAMOND HOTEL. Lunch buffet at Palm Court Café offers kids, ages 6-10, a 50-percent discount, while kids under 5 years old is free. With each group of six, one gets to dine for free. Added attraction is a magic show and mascots parade.

MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL. Offered are Easter egg hunt, magic show, face-painting, parlor games, cartoon viewing and lunch/dinner feasting.

ITALIANNI'S. Activity starts with an egg hunt at 1 p.m. where prizes and surprises await kids. There'll be a sand art activity and on-the-spot drawing contest where kids can express their creativity and win bunnies and gold fish. Free face-painting and ice cream from Nestlé Ice Cream.

OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE. Easter egg hunting begins at 11 a.m. and at 5 p.m. Menu includes seafood, fish, pastas and more.

TGIFRIDAYS. Little tots are invited to come in their best Easter costumes and enjoy a kiddie meal for free. Choices include spaghetti, hamburger, chicken fingers and pizza.

SALOME L. TAN PRE-SCHOOL
1099 Camachili St. corner Conchu St.
Singalong, Manila
5240552

Summer Classes for ages 2 - 7 will start April 16, 2001

Reading, Writing, Math & Music
8:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
Tuition - P3,000
Materials Included

Registration for SY-2001-2002
3-6 years old Nursery, Kinder, Prep
Tuition - P18,000.00
Materials Included

The fun before the egg hunt

PUT the fun and excitement back into the traditional Easter by using your creativity to come up with more child-appealing Easter eggs.

Here are two very easy ideas that you can do ahead of time which the San Miguel Food Group Culinary Center has developed and presented .

For more recipe ideas, visit www.sanmiguelculinary.com or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to San Miguel Culinary Center, Legaspi corner Eagle Streets, Barrio Ugong, Pasig City 1604.

Easter Egg Choco Baskets

1¼ c all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp baking powder
1/8 tsp salt
¾ c cold water
½ c cocoa powder
½ tsp vanilla
½ c Baker's Best Margarine
2 c brown sugar
4 pcs eggs

Frosting: (Royal icing)
1½ c sugar
½ c water
½ c eggwhite
1/8 tsp cream of tartar
Topping:
Assorted candies

Preheat oven to 325°F.

Grease and line muffin pans with paper cups. Set aside.

Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt in a bowl. Set aside. Combine cold water, cocoa and vanilla. Mix until smooth. Set aside in the refrigerator.

Cream butter and brown sugar for 10 minutes. Add eggs one at a time beating well after each additions. At low speed, add dry ingredients alternately with cocoa mixture. Mix until smooth. Pour mixture in the pan and bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until cake tester comes out clean.

For the frosting. Put egg whites and cream of tartar in a mixing bowl of the mixer. Meanwhile, combine water and sugar and boil until it spins a thread or registers 225°F on the candy thermometer. At this time, start beating the egg white at high speed. When temperature of syrup reaches 260°F, lower the speed of the mixer and pour in steady streams half of the syrup, beat at high speed. Then lower the speed again and pour in the remaining syrup. Beat at high speed until of spreading consistency.

To assemble, tint frosting to light green. Frost top of cupcake. Decorate with colored chocolate eggs.

Easter Egg Cookies

1 c Dari Cream Margarine, softened
½ c sugar, sifted
¼ c cake flour
2 2/3 c all-purpose flour
½ c sugar
Food color
2 eggwhites
1/3 c hazelnut spread

Frosting:
2 c powdered sugar
3 tbsps full cream milk
Assorted food coloring

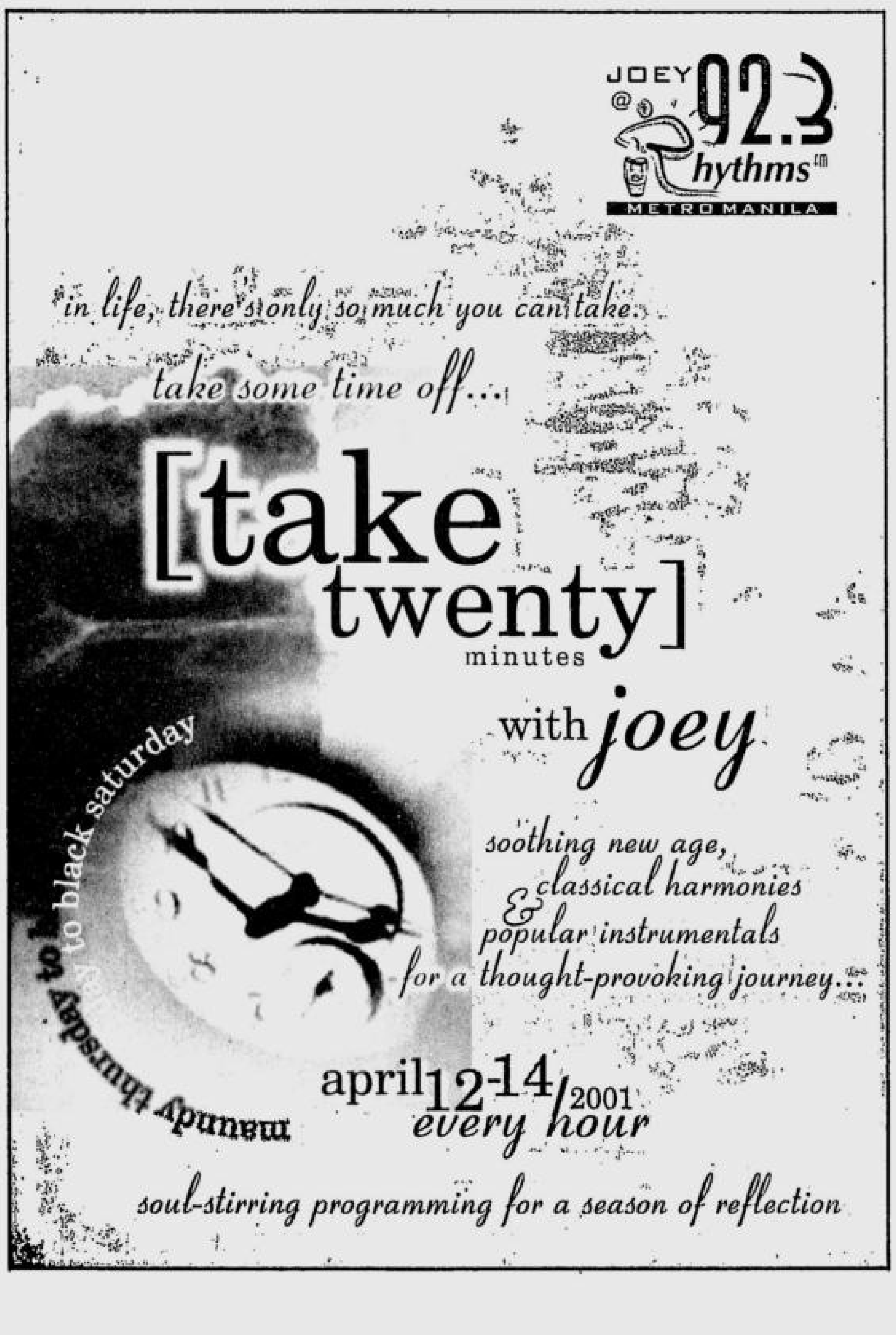
Cream Dari Creme and sugar until well blended. Stir in flour using your hands until the mixture becomes stiff. Lightly knead mixture on a lightly floured surface until smooth. Roll out dough into a thin rectangular sheet. Cut dough into egg shapes. Transfer dough on cookie sheets. Bake cookies for 5 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack and let it cool.

For frosting. Combine powdered sugar and full cream milk and mix until smooth. Whip until smooth. Frost cookies as desired.

Yield: 10 pieces.

ROSE BOWL
Gold
ROSE BOWL
Gold
SARDINES
SARDINES
ROSE BOWL

IT'S BACK! Canned sardines were first brought here as part of the US army rations during World War II. Rose Bowl was the leading brand for decades until the Philippine government banned the importation of sardines. Now canned in Peru, Rose Bowl Gold is back in the same oval-shaped can but with bigger and meatier fish and a distinct premium blend of tomato sauce.


JOEY @ 92.3 Rhythms fm
METRO MANILA
in life, there's only so much you can take.
take some time off...
[take twenty] minutes
with joey
soothing new age, classical harmonies & popular instrumentals for a thought-provoking journey...
maundy thursday to black saturday
april 12-14/2001
every hour
soul-stirring programming for a season of reflection

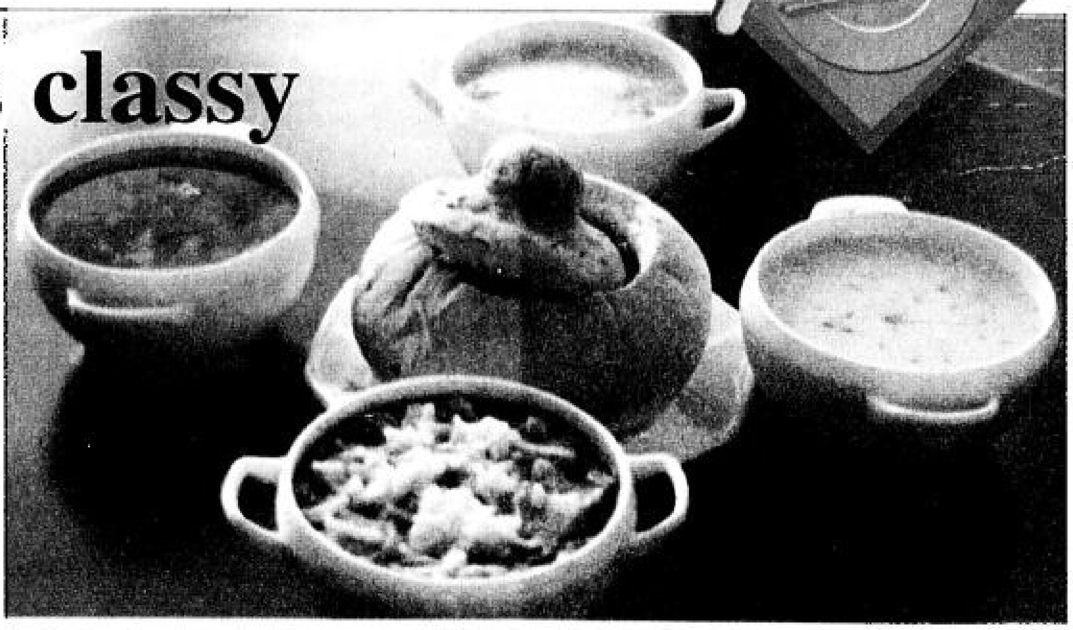
For a soup kitchen, this one is classy

BESTSELLER. Chili soup with herb bread

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Romy Homillada

IT all began with the episode "Soup Nazi" on the long-running, award-winning American sitcom "Seinfeld." Soup Nazi was a soup vendor who served caustic curses with cups of steamy soup that was so good his customer endured his tirades.

Eugene Chan, owner of The Soup Kitchen and an avid follower of the weekly sitcom, became fascinated with the Soup Nazi character so much that he thought of bringing the idea to the Philippines on a larger scale. With wife Grace and sister-in-law Florence Yap, they opened the first branch in September 1999 in a small nook in Glorietta. Last December, a second outlet made its home along the Megastrip of SM Megamall.


SOUPS galore

LIGHT and quick dining at The Soup Kitchen

Training in Tennessee

Eugene found out about The Soup Kitchen via the Internet. After corresponding with the owners, the three young entrepreneurs flew for hands-on training for one full month in Knoxville, Tennessee. They went through the rudiments of preparing every soup listed on The Soup Kitchen's menu.

Back in Manila, Eugene takes charge of the soup side of the business while his wife and sister-in-law oversee the salads and desserts. "We make and bake everything from scratch here," says Eugene.

Peak hours for The Soup Kitchen are from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., with the clientele coming mostly from the offices surrounding the mall or from ladies coming from their workout. There is a lull from 3-6 p.m. and then business picks up again from business people grabbing a bite after office hours or young couples queuing up for take-home.

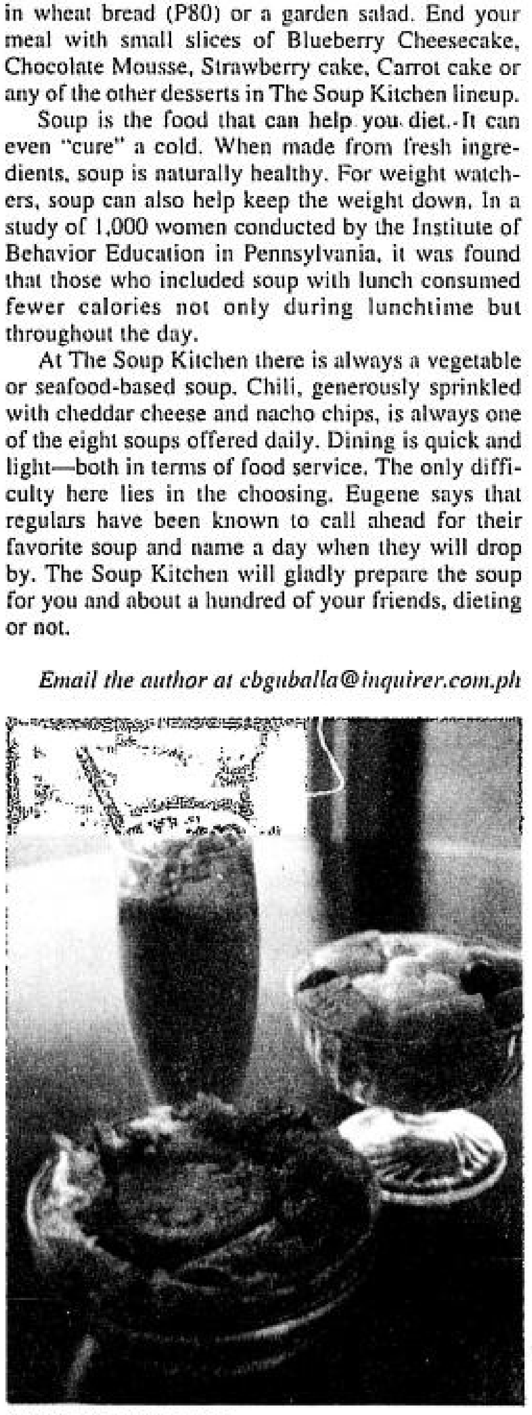
Healthy and hearty

Eight soups from a selection of 150 recipes are prepared daily at The Soup Kitchen. All soups are made from scratch using the freshest and finest ingredients. More importantly, no MSG (monosodium glutamate) is added. Bestsellers are the Chili, Clam Chowder, Hearty Vegetable, Cheeseburger Mac and Hungarian Goulash. Pair the soup off with brown bread or herb bread and you have a healthy, hearty meal. Soup sizes vary—a full bowl at 16 oz, a half bowl at 12 oz or quarter bowl at 8 oz. The soup combo, which is a selection of any two 8-oz soup plus bread, is filling and value for money at a little over a hundred pesos. If your hunger pangs are not met, you can add a crabstick with mango sandwich in wheat bread (P80) or a garden salad. End your meal with small slices of Blueberry Cheesecake, Chocolate Mousse, Strawberry cake, Carrot cake or any of the other desserts in The Soup Kitchen lineup.

Soup is the food that can help you diet. It can even "cure" a cold. When made from fresh ingredients, soup is naturally healthy. For weight watchers, soup can also help keep the weight down. In a study of 1,000 women conducted by the Institute of Behavior Education in Pennsylvania, it was found that those who included soup with lunch consumed fewer calories not only during lunchtime but throughout the day.

At The Soup Kitchen there is always a vegetable or seafood-based soup. Chili, generously sprinkled with cheddar cheese and nacho chips, is always one of the eight soups offered daily. Dining is quick and light—both in terms of food service. The only difficulty here lies in the choosing. Eugene says that regulars have been known to call ahead for their favorite soup and name a day when they will drop by. The Soup Kitchen will gladly prepare the soup for you and about a hundred of your friends, dieting or not.

Email the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph


SALADS and shakes

Nestle
Summer
GETAWAY
Only One Wrapper to Win!
1
Romantic Retreat Showcase
4
Family Paradise Showcase
Nestle KitKat
Nestle Classic
Nestle Classic Eclairs
FOX'S
Goya Chocolate Coins
Goya Cubes
Goya Golden Crown
Goya Silver Cup

1st Prize
4 Trips for 2 to Pacific Island Club, Saipan + $200

2nd Prize
4 Trips for 2 to Pearl Farm, Davao + P5,000

3rd Prize
20 winners of P5,000

1st Prize
4 Trips for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200

2nd Prize
4 Trips for 4 to Hotel Fleuris, Palawan + P5,000

3rd Prize
20 winners of P5,000

Put those shades on 'cause Nestle and Goya are taking you to the best beaches here and abroad. All you need is one wrapper for a chance to win cash or exotic holiday packages. Hot stuff!

MECHANICS OF THE "NESTLE SUMMER GETAWAY" PROMOTION

HERE'S HOW

1. Write your name, address, telephone number, and signature on a piece of paper.
2. Attach this to a single wrapper, label, or pouch of any of the following Nestle or Goya Confectionery products: Kit Kat, Nestle Classic Milk Chocolate, Nestle Classic Eclairs, Fox's, Goya Chocolate Coins, Goya Cubes, Goya Silver Cup, Goya Golden Crown.
3. Drop your entries at the NESTLE SUMMER GETAWAY drop boxes at designated Supermarkets and Groceries.
4. Or you may send your entries to any of the following:
   a) Goya, Inc., 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang Marikina City
   b) Nestle Philippines, Inc., 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
   c) Or any Nestle office near you.
5. Draw date is on July 7, 2001 and Cut off date is on June 30, 2001.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All prizes are tax free.
2. All prizes are not convertible to cash but transferable.
3. Total prize to be given away per region (GMA, LUZ, VIS, MIN) are as follows:

Adults	1st Prize	Trip for 2 to Pacific Island Club, Saipan + $200.00
	2nd Prize	Trip for 2 to Pearl Farm, Davao + P5,000.00
	3rd Prize	5 x P5,000.00
Family	1st Prize	Trip for 4 to Bali, Indonesia + $200.00
	2nd Prize	Trip for 4 to Palawan + P5,000.00
	3rd Prize	5 x P5,000.00

4. Draw date is on the 7th of July 2001.
5. Entries will be drawn per showcase per region.
6. The first valid entry drawn in each showcase per region will be declared as the winner.
7. A winner can only win once per showcase per draw. However, a person can win in another showcase in the same draw.
8. Three-fourths of the wrapper, label, pouches or cap must be intact to qualify as an entry.
9. All raffle promotion winners will be notified via telegram, which will indicate how and where they may claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of telegram shall be forfeited only upon approval of DOH-BFAD.
10. Winners must present any two valid identification papers among the following along with the original telegram of notice when claiming their prizes: Company ID, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, Passport, Marriage, Driver's license or SSS ID.
11. A winner for a particular region must be a resident of the area of coverage.
12. All prizes are transferable provided claimants present the following: Letter of authorization from winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of claimant and original telegram sent by Goya, Inc.
13. Prizes are subject to availability. Should a stated prize be unavailable for whatsoever reason, Goya, Inc. reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value as deemed suitable by Goya, Inc.
14. Winners can claim their prizes at the nearest Nestle office on the date indicated in the telegram.
15. All winners will shoulder travel/transportation expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
16. An authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs will be present to supervise the raffle draw.
17. Goya, Inc.'s decision in concurrence with the DOH-BFAD is deemed final.
18. Nestle reserves the right to publish the names and/or photographs of winners for advertising and publicity purposes. All winners will be notified by mail.
19. All employees of Goya, Inc., Nestle Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies, its packaging supplier, their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are not qualified to join.

DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0101 s. 2001

NO ISSUES:

APRIL 13, 2001 (Maundy Thursday)
APRIL 14, 2001 (Good Friday)